

THE TIMES

Saturday Portfolio

£42,000 to be won

Vale of intrigue
Dynastic infighting
in Kashmir

Mean machine
In pursuit of
motorbikes, both
big and small

Wimbledon
Rex Bellamy on the men's
semi-finals and preview
of the women's final

Two share £2,000 prize

The Times £2,000 Portfolio prize was shared yesterday by two winners: a housewife in Chesham and the other a student in Buckinghamshire. Each will receive £1,000.

Portfolio list, page 24; rules and how to play, back page; report back page.

Unexploded bombs on Gulf tanker

A Japanese-chartered oil tanker, apparently hit by an Iranian air attack in the Gulf was heading for the Strait of Hormuz with two unexploded bombs on board. There were no casualties and the ship said it was safe after a fire had been extinguished.

Argentine alarm

Army tanks were seen moving towards Buenos Aires after leading generals were forced to resign. Argentine politicians were alarmed by the news.

£2 'passport'

Excursion documents, costing £2, will be issued by post offices to tourists without passports wanting to visit France from July 31, the Government announced.

Molotov back

Mr Vyacheslav Molotov, Stalin's disgraced foreign minister who was dismissed in 1957 by Mr Khrushchev, has been readmitted to the Soviet Communist Party at the age of 94.

Four stole blood

A former consultant haematologist at the National Heart Hospital and two other men were convicted of conspiracy to steal blood for illicit plasma sales. They and a fourth man who earlier pleaded guilty will be sentenced today.

Villagers in fear

Israeli security squads are bringing terror to villagers in South Lebanon, after four officers shot and killed a man aged 27.

A-test inquiry

Australia has set up a royal commission to investigate British nuclear tests there in the 1950s and 1960s, including those on Monte Bello Island.

Takeover rules

Decisions to refer planned takeover deals to the Monopolies Commission will in future be made "primarily on competition grounds", said Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary. The threshold for bids qualifying for investigation is raised to affect only companies with assets of £30m or more.

Lyle leads

Sandy Lyle leads the Scandinavian Open by two shots after a first round score of 65, six under par, which included nine birdies.

Leader page, 17
Letters: On council spending, from Mr N. Hawkins, and Mr J. Jillings; Midland Bank, from Sir Donald Barron; Ulster, from Mr S. C. Siskin QC.
Leading articles: The pound; Paving Bill; EEC seating arrangements.
Features, pages 12, 13, 16
Supporting the working miners; Bernard Levin's memorable musical evening; David Watt on strengthening NATO; Spectrum: Sikhism in Britain; Friday Page: Conciliation in the aftermath of divorce.
Obituary, page 18
Professor William Fisher. Dr Maurice Partridge.

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Coal talks resume today after 'constructive' start

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The first real sign of peace in the pits came last night after nine hours of talks between the National Coal Board and leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers.

The two sides got down to serious bargaining on the industry's future for the first time since the "rolling strike" started nearly 17 weeks ago. Sufficient progress was made to continue the talks for a further round.

Yesterday's breakthrough followed a meeting this week between Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the board and the Prime Minister, together with Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy and intense behind-the-scenes activity by Labour politicians to bring the two sides together.

After their talks at the Rubens Hotel, London, the two sides said in an agreed statement: "After nine hours of constructive discussion, the NUM and the NCB have agreed to meet again."

A meeting has been arranged for today.

Neither Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the miners' union, nor Mr MacGregor would add to this statement.

But the word "constructive" indicates that more progress was made in London yesterday than at all previous meetings in Edinburgh, Rotham and South Yorkshire.

The discussions will be resumed ahead of the NUM's special delegate conference which is to meet in Sheffield on Wednesday and Thursday at which the strike will almost certainly be given fresh impetus by the militant left unless the peace process is clearly continuing.

Yesterday's talks are understood to have concentrated on the general future for the industry and the critical definition of an uneconomic pit.

The union have until now insisted that only exhausted or geologically unsafe pits should be shut, and that more investment could and should extend the life of all other mines.

The board wants to reduce annual capacity by four million tonnes and close down the biggest loss-making collieries.

The British Steel Corporation, expected by the Government to break even next March, is now losing more than £1m a day, mostly as the result of the miners' strike.

Before the dispute began, BSC, bolstered by a significant increase in demand for steel, was making losses of about £3m a week but regarded the March 1985 deadline as realistic. Now, additional losses of about £5m a week are being recorded because of the extra expense of importing coal, lower output levels, increased maintenance work and lost exports.

With steelworkers' leaders defying attempts by the National Union of Mineworkers to close their industry, Mr Robert Haslam, the BSC chairman, yesterday sent letters to all employees describing a halt to steel production as "suicidal".

He added: "Arthur Scargill has promised that no foreign steel would be allowed to Britain while our plants are shut. Experience shows that promise could not be kept."

Mr Haslam said the slimming and belting of recent years had "put us in a fighting trim and given us a fair chance of winning through". The leaders of the miners' and railwaymen's unions were misguided in believing that putting the steel industry out of business would speed up a solution to the miners' strike.

The Attorney General has given the go-ahead yesterday by the High Court to challenge Labour-controlled South Yorkshire police committee's attempt to withhold funds for policing miners' picket lines.

Two clerical staff at Shirewood colliery, north Derbyshire, have been stoned and abused in the past 48 hours, police said yesterday. A working miner's car was daubed with paint at Langwith.

Pound slumps under \$1.32 to record low

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The pound fell 1.75 cents to a record low against the dollar yesterday, closing at \$1.3180 in London. It weakened further in New York, dropping to \$1.3135 by lunchtime. But the Chancellor's unwillingness to raise interest rates at this stage in the economic recovery was underlined by the unemployment figures for June, which showed a further rise of 8,000 in the underlying total of adult jobs.

Sterling's "effective" trade-weighted exchange rate against all main currencies fell 0.3 points to 78.3 yesterday, as the pound weakened slightly against the Deutsche mark, French franc and Japanese yen. However, its steepest decline was against the dollar, which was strengthening against most currencies.

Dealers said the prospect of higher American interest rates, compared with British reluctance to raise rates, was principally responsible for the pound's fall, although the miners' strike and the weakness in the oil market also played a part.

Sterling's effective rate is now five points below the average for last year on which Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, based his Budget forecasts for inflation and other economic developments. It is only 0.4 points above its record low in March 1983, when the effective rate dipped briefly below 78.

A lower exchange rate benefits the Treasury by increasing the sterling price of oil and hence its oil tax revenues. But it also puts at risk the Chancellor's forecast of a decline in the rate of inflation to 4 per cent next year.

The total number of unemployed people in the United Kingdom fell by 55,000 in June to 3,029,723 or 12.6 per cent of the workforce. But the seasonally-adjusted figure excluding school-leavers rose a further 8,000 to 3,036,000.

The three-month moving average has been rising by 8,000-11,000 for the past three months. This is lower than in the first quarter, but does not match last year's figures, when the average fell for the last quarter.

The adjusted total is 69,000 higher than in June, 1983, or 98,000 allowing for those older unemployed now removed from the register. Special employment schemes are reckoned to have reduced the June, 1984, total by 440,000.

The number of school-leavers on the register last month was 95,000. This is 9,000 fewer than in May. But the summer bulge of school leavers will increase the registered total of unemployment.

Leading article, page 17

Prospects for break in drought are remote

By Kenneth Gosling

Apart from a few thundery showers this weekend, the steady rain needed to relieve drought conditions in western and north-western parts of the country was a far off prospect last night.

By this morning, more than 8m people will be subject to restrictions on using hoses.

"We need pretty steady hard rain over the next couple of weeks to make a difference in the situation," a National Weather Council spokesman said last night. The London Weather Centre said the prospects of this were remote.

Water resources in the remaining authorities, apart from Wales, the north-west, south-west and Yorkshire, are satisfactory for the foreseeable future. River flows are below normal and adjourned the case until September 10 to hear legal arguments.

They were told by Mrs Thornton, of Stoney Lane, Longwood, Huddersfield, that she regularly saw gangs of youths near the shop in Leymoor Road, Huddersfield. They were loud-mouthed and swearing and often looked "dizzy drunk".

When she went into the shop last December there were several teenagers inside and she heard one of them say: "I want a kit."

Miss Patel put a tube of glue on the counter and then held up two different sized plastic bags

Nigerian kidnapped in London

By Peter Davenport

Anti-terrorist squad detectives were last night searching for a Nigerian minister kidnapped outside his home in London about 12.30 pm yesterday.

Mr Umaru Dikko was snatched by a group of men and bundled into a yellow vehicle only yards from his home in Porchester Terrace in the West End.

Mr Dikko has been living in London since fleeing a military coup against the Government of which he was a member late last year and is seen by the new rulers in Nigeria as a focus for political dissent.

The new Government of General Buhari are said to have put Mr Dikko at the top of their most wanted list of former ministers that they want to bring to trial, but as recently as February, Mr Dikko, speaking on a BBC World Service programme on Africa challenged the Government's right to arrest him.

One theory being considered by detectives was that the military regime may have sent in its own men to kidnap him.

Police were called in immediately after Mr Dikko was grabbed and sealed the area off. All sea and airports around the country were also alerted in case of an attempt to smuggle him out of the country.

The inquiry was being headed by Commander William Hackett of the Anti-terrorist Squad.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "There has been no contact from the men who took him. We are well aware of the background in Nigeria and the possibility that the military regime there may be in some way involved."

Scotland Yard could not confirm earlier reports that at least two of the kidnappers were seen to be armed as they drove off with their victim towards Bayswater.

If he were returned to Nigeria, he would face trial before a military tribunal under a decree imposing a minimum sentence of 21 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. There is no appeal, though sentences must be confirmed by the supreme military council.

Britain would never extradite a man if he faced trial under such conditions.

Mr John Thompson, prosecuting, said that if the parents of older children had seen what happens they might well have taken the law into their own hands.

He agreed that it was not illegal to sell glue or plastic bags in themselves but it became unlawful because of the possible consequences.

The Patels both denied the

complaint and Miss Patel told the court she had not sold the glue and the bags together. She said the youth had helped himself to the glue and paid for it and she served several other youngsters before he came back five minutes later and asked for the bag.

Mr Nigel Priestley, for the Patels, said there was no law against selling glue or glue sniffing. Even if everything said by the prosecution were accepted there was still no evidence of an unlawful act.

He said the prosecution wanted every shopkeeper to act as its own lawbreaker and asked

the court: "Would you summons a shopkeeper who sold four cans of beer to a 20-year-old, Huddersfield Town supporter on his way to the football match?"

After a short retirement the magistrates announced that he words "unlawfully" was causing them problems.

The chairman, Mr E. Austen Johnson, said they had decided Miss Patel sold the glue and the bag after being asked for a kit, and was likely to know they would be used for glue sniffing. They also felt that Mrs Thornton's reaction might have caused a breach of the peace.



Wimbledon showdown: Martina Navratilova (left) will meet Chris Lloyd in the women's singles final tomorrow. Yesterday Miss Navratilova beat Kathy Jordan and Mrs Lloyd beat Hana Mandlikova. (Photographs: Ian Stewart). Rex Bellamy, page 25.

Retreat awards metropolitan councils and GLC extra time

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Cabinet yesterday completed the retreat forced upon it by the House of Lords on its legislation for the abolition of the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan county councils, and granted their members an extra term of unexpired office from next May.

The decision, greeted with derision by the Opposition, was confirmed in the Commons by the Prime Minister, means that the Government's original plan to put in interim authorities composed of members of the London boroughs and the metropolitan districts to take over the councils' functions before their abolition, due on April 1, 1986, is now dead and buried.

Next May's elections, whose cancellation has always been the prime aim of the "paving" Bill, will still not go ahead.

But even as the Government appeared to have cleared one obstacle, amid embarrassment and confusion, to its eventual abolition intentions, it was quickly reminded that equally formidable difficulties may loom far ahead.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, whose difficulties with the Bill have raised doubts about his future, made an apparently reluctant appearance at the dispatch box in the Commons and was warned that his timetable for abolition would not be easily achieved.

He was given notice by several senior Conservatives that they do not like his plans to get rid of an elected authority for London.

There was astonishment among MPs that the Government had initially chosen to announce its changes to the Bill outside the House, without a statement to Parliament.

It was intended that the decision should be made in the House of Lords, but it was not decided until lunchtime that Lord Whitelaw should tell the Lords and Mr Jenkin the Commons.

It allowed Mr Neil Kinnock to ask Mrs Margaret Thatcher whether the original decision was because Mr Jenkin was afraid to come to the House or whether she was afraid to let him.

The sense of dismay was underlined when, after her own question time appearance and before Mr Jenkin's turn came, she sat beside him on the Government bench and appeared to check through the statement he was about to deliver.

The Government is to carry out its changes to the Bill by tabling amendments for its report stage in the Lords the week after next. There will also be further alterations to prevent "unreasonable actions" by the councils during their extended terms.

Powers are already in the Bill to stop the councils selling off big assets, but the Department of the Environment is preparing further legislative restrictions on the negotiation of long-term contracts and perhaps on overall spending, breaches of which would render councillors liable to penalties.

Mr Jenkin, who was given a sympathetic but less than enthusiastic hearing at a meeting of the Conservative backbench environment committee last night, told the Commons that he would be publishing before the summer recess a document summarizing the Government's intentions over the allocation of functions at present carried out by the GLC and the metropolitan councils.

He went some way to acknowledging the difficulties of carrying through the abolition by April 1, 1986, when he said that success in achieving a smooth handover of functions to the boroughs and the districts would depend on the cooperation of the GLC and the metropolitan councils after the abolition Bill is passed next summer or autumn.

Although the officers of those councils will be legally obliged to cooperate with the "paving" Bill, there is no confidence in the Government that the members themselves will be obliging.

Mr Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North-West and a GLC member, told Mr Jenkin yesterday: "Dismissing the GLC is going to take considerably longer than a year, even with good will in County Hall, and there is not much of that towards you."

Parliament, page 4

Photographs, back page

Record £7.3m for Turner painting

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A magnificent impressionistic seascape by the English painter William Turner became the most expensive painting in auction room history when sold at Sotheby's for £7,370,000 yesterday.

The large painting, entitled *Seascape: Folkestone*, came from the collection of the great art historian, Lord Clark of Salwood and was sold by his family to pay capital taxes on his estate.

"My father used to call it the greatest picture ever painted by an Englishman," his son Mr Alan Clark, said yesterday, "except for the days when he called it the greatest picture ever painted."

After the bidding topped £5m, the sale turned into a battle between two dealers, Mr Charles Leggett of the London firm Leggett Bros and Mr Richard Feigen of New York, with the former emerging as the victor.

Mr Leggett, aged 29, was seated with his father Sir Hugh Leggett on one side and brother Martin on the other. He was tense and trembling as he bid, with his father pumping him to carry on. He seemed several times almost unable to bring himself to put in another bid. He gave the impression of a man using his own judgment to decide how much of another person's money to spend.

Leggett Bros said after the sale that their client wished to retain complete anonymity. The buyer resembled himself in the course of the afternoon, however, as a potential British



benefactor. The firm revealed that directly after the sale they were asked to offer a four-month loan of the painting to the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square.

The offer was rejected by Lord Annan, chairman of the trustees, on the grounds that the painting could not be accommodated during the current refurbishment. The new owner had wanted it to hang next to the famous *Fighting Temeraire*.

ITV would lose £1.5m by quitting Olympics

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

The ITV network is on the verge of pulling out of covering the Olympic Games, at a cost of £1.5m, in order to avoid meeting a union claim which could be settled for £5,000.

The companies have given the technicians' union the ACTT, until 1pm today to agree on a Management offer which the companies say, would involve the employment of two unnecessary production assistants in Los Angeles. But the ACTT insists that three production assistants must be employed for the Olympics Games and no meetings between the two sides are planned before the deadline expires.

Mr John Calvert, the industrial relations director of the Independent Television Companies Association, who has been heading the negotiations, said yesterday: "This deadline is not flexible at all. We have been discussing this since March and it is now make your mind up time. We have already compromised and the union's response

has been a flat rejection, so I have to say that the prognosis is not good."

ITV has already lost its breakfast Olympics coverage because of a separate dispute between the union and TV-am.

The ITV companies believe that they need a 65-strong crew, half of them ACTT members in Los Angeles for the Games. After pressure from the union earlier this year, it offered to take on two production assistants.

"We don't need these people but this was a way of demonstrating our willingness to compromise," Mr Calvert said. "There is no particular logic about this decision. The reason we have set this deadline isn't because we can't afford to send a third man to Los Angeles. It's a point of principle where we have to decide whether we are prepared to make a compromise and still the union is trying to force a third person upon us."

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the court: "Would you summons a shopkeeper who sold four cans of beer to a 20-year-old, Huddersfield Town supporter on his way to the football match?"

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SALE

NOW ON

Illustrated above

LOVER'S KNOT - Brass eg. 5'0" was £845 now £715

PETER REED - Egyptian Cotton Sheets Save 25% off original price

VICTORIA - Screen Mirror was £460 now £368

POESIA - Lacquered or Brass eg. 5'0" Lacq. was £555 now £444

CREST - with Mother of Pearl eg. 5'0" was £695 now £555

HALF PRICE QUILTS - Many designs and colours eg. **TECLA** was £126 now £63 **CHINE** was £150 now £75 **CHIAARA** was £195 now £99.95

CREVAL Mirror Model 713 was £310 now £249

SLEEPER "SEVATOR" Divan Set with pocket spring interior eg. 5'0" x 6'0" was £652 now £445

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New bishop confirmed but crisis lingers on

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

As Professor David Jenkins was being legally confirmed as Bishop of Durham yesterday the Church of England Evangelical Council passed a resolution deploring his views on the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection.

The confirmation ceremony, which is a formality, was held in York Minster, elsewhere in the same city the evangelical council met to debate the crisis in the church caused by his appointment. It is the chief representative body of Evangelical (Low Church) opinion in the Church of England.

The new bishop is to be consecrated by the Archbishop of York today, and the ancient ceremony of confirmation was the legally necessary preliminary. It went without a hitch, and no valid objections had been received in advance.

Objections on the grounds of the candidate's beliefs would not have been admissible.

The council stated in its resolution that Professor Jenkins's recent statements had caused considerable distress in the church. It reaffirmed its own commitment to the church's doctrine, which includes, it said, "the fact of the Virgin Birth and the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb on the third day."

Concorde record by businessman

British Airways yesterday presented a silver medal of Concorde to Mr Fred Finn, aged 44, an international licensing consultant, who has flown a record 500 times in the aircraft, logging 1,700,000 miles and 1,000 flying hours, costing him more than £500,000 in fares.

Mr Finn, from Canterbury, moved to the United States 12 years ago. He was on the first Concorde flight from Washington on May 26, 1976.

Cabinet decides to demand £4,000m cut in spending bids

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Cabinet yesterday authorized Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to seek a cutback of about £4,000m in departmental bids for 1985-86 expenditure.

A senior government source said that the latest cuts exercise appeared to be more relaxed than previous years because the departmental victims had stopped twivling.

Ministers had come to accept the new Treasury orthodoxy that expenditure planning totals should be held, in aggregate, which meant that next year's target of £132,000m with its inbuilt assumption of 4.5 per cent inflation meantime, was fundamental.

Mr Rees will now begin his annual round of bilateral meetings with ministers and although some yelps might be expected, it was said last night that Whitehall's current silence was significant.

There had been a remarkable silence from departments which had previously marked the cuts process with premature and exaggerated protest designed to protect sacred budgets and schemes.

However, the silence does not extend to the construction industry, which now faces a real threat of a Department of the Environment moratorium on capital expenditure by local authorities.

Pressure for a moratorium has been increased by a surprise English overspend of about £300m on last year's £2,935m capital cash limit. The Treasury expects councils to claw that amount back from this year's £2,750m capital cash limit.

It is also thought that councils have continued to overspend and the industry



Sailing to a birthday

The home-made, 100ft, fully-rigged ship Calida, setting out from Tower Bridge for Quebec yesterday to join more than 100 sailing ships for the celebrations marking the 450th anniversary of the discovery of the city by Jacques Cartier. The crew of five, all young volunteers, built the ship in two years, and will stay with it in its new commercial life, carrying Brazils out. The captain, Mr R Armstrong, who is also the owner, commissioned the steel hull in Woolwich. (Photograph: John Voos)

Councillors likely to toe Labour line on rates

By David Walker

Labour hardliners' strategy of disobeying the Government's new rates law is likely to be rebuffed when the party's council leaders from across Britain gather today in Sheffield to try to build a united front against rate-capping.

The London boroughs controlled by the left, notably Islington and Lambeth, and the Greater London Council, represented by Mr Ken Livingstone, will push for outright defiance of the Government.

Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield City Council, will try to unite the factions around a platform of refusing to make cuts in council services.

But the fact that the conference has been organized officially by Labour Party headquarters and includes Labour councillors from outside London and the hardline cities of Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool will strengthen the hand of the moderates.

The two-day conference is likely to follow Labour's official line set out by the party's environment spokesman Dr John Cunningham, which stops short of recommending law-breaking when the Government sets tight rates targets.

Saudi flogging for more Britons

More Britons, held in Saudi Arabian jails, face flogging for breaking the country's strict laws against alcohol. The Foreign Office disclosed yesterday that 21 men are serving sentences and at least a dozen were being held for drinking offences.

Several have been sentenced to a flogging at the end of their term in jail. The figures emerged yesterday as the Foreign Office studied details of 23-year-old insurance executive, Simon Church's story of how he received 60 lashes after being arrested after a drink and darts party.

Chemical waste firm refuses to say if it emits dioxin

By Patricia Clogh

A chemical waste processing firm, Re-Chem International, yesterday refused to say whether dioxin had been found in emissions from its plants near Pontypool, Gwent, and at Bonnybridge, central Scotland.

Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Torfaen, formerly Pontypool, yesterday demanded an inquiry into disease, deaths and deformities among livestock near the Pontypool plant. An inquiry was ordered last week by the Scottish Office into similar occurrences near Bonnybridge.

People in villages near the Welsh plant at New Inn, south of Pontypool, have complained of aching joints, exhaustion, dizziness and nosebleeds. Similar symptoms have affected inhabitants in the Bonnybridge area.

A farmer, Mr Colin Haines, who lives five miles from the New Inn plant, says that about 70 of his lambs have wasted away, all 15 of his Charolais cows have contracted sores, wasted away and died, another 44 ewes died before lambing and the remaining animals are weak and sickly.

"The vets are completely baffled. Tests have been done on the soil and water, but nothing has been found. We are virtually ruined," his wife said.

Mr Abse's demand to Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, for an enquiry was prompted by a report on Monday that traces of dioxin had been found in samples of soil at Bonnybridge.

Dioxin, a by-product of the burning of complex modern chemicals, is 170,000 times as deadly as cyanide. Less than one part a billion is enough to kill guinea pigs and rabbits. It has been blamed for malformed babies and various diseases in Vietnam, the United States, Italy and West Germany.

The effect on humans of the Bonnybridge variety of dioxin, a less toxic one, has been researched but it is known to cause cancer and malformations in animals.

In his letter to Mr Edwards Mr Abse said that pregnant women and other constituents had expressed alarm about the New Inn factory. But a spokesman for the Welsh Office said that there was no evidence to warrant an inquiry.

However, he added that staff of the office were examining statistics and other relevant information about the whole Pontypool area.

In response to questions Re-Chem said: "The monitoring of both plants is an immensely complex area, as is that covered by the debate on the presence of dioxin in the natural environment. The results are not easily assimilable and are therefore not available for general release."

A spokesman for the Health and Safety Executive for the Pontypool area said: "The HSE is confident there is no danger from dioxin to the local community."

Methodist support for Dr Graham

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

As the Billy Graham campaign in England passed its half million in total attendances the Methodist Conference yesterday declared its rather belated support for him.

An emergency resolution was passed overwhelmingly, welcoming Mr Graham's efforts and rejoicing at their success. It was designed to smother the impression given on Saturday, when several critics of the Billy Graham approach had had their say. The vote taken yesterday proved them to be unrepresentative.

He is preaching at Villa Park, Birmingham, passing two landmarks: half a million attendance, and 45,000 "inquirers" - those who come forward - which is more than the total achieved at his famous three-month crusade in Haringey in 1954. The title of "inquirers" to "attendees" about one in 10, is said to be twice Mr Graham's usual average, and some clergymen have claimed a doubling of Sunday church congregations as a result.

On Saturday the Rev Richard Jones, chairman of the East Anglian Methodist District, had attacked the Billy Graham and Louis Palau campaigns as "dangerous". He told the Methodist Conference that crude, high-profile evangelism could harm the good standing of the main denominations in England. "Most distressing is the claim that people went either to heaven or hell depending on the state of their faith at the time," he said.

Methodist supporters of Mission England, the body sponsoring Mr Graham, rallied behind him yesterday. The Rev Brian Hoare, of Derbyshire, praised his "proclamation of the Christian faith" and the Rev Donald English, secretary of the Methodist Church's Home Mission Division, described his visit to the Villa Park meeting the night before.

"Many Methodists would have been proud to have preached Billy Graham's sermon," he declared. He had been particularly impressed by the "social dimension" in it, and by the absence of psychological pressure on the audience.

Yesterday's resolution, which was not on the original agenda, urged Methodists to support "what remains of the Mission England programme" actively and prayerfully.

Car sales head for a record

By Edward Townsend

Industrial Correspondent

Car sales in Britain are set to beat last year's record of just under 1,800,000 with the six-month figure published yesterday standing at 943,868, 2.4 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The good news for the British car manufacturing industry - basically BL and about 60 per cent of Ford - is that imports are continuing to decline. In the six months, foreign-made cars, including those from the European factories of Ford and General Motors, were down from 56.84 per cent a year ago to 55.88 per cent.

The fall in imports, while representing only 1 per cent of the market is significant, particularly at a time when domestic producers and importers are gearing up for the big August boom, traditionally a month when about 20 per cent of the year's sales occur.

In June, the Ford Fiesta was the best seller with the Vauxhall Cavalier second. This was the first time since its launch in 1977 that the Fiesta has taken the top slot.

However, Ford's United Kingdom market share in the six months dropped to under 27 per cent from 30.3 per cent a year earlier while General Motors, still basking in the success of the Cavalier, saw its penetration rise from 14.2 per cent to nearly 18 per cent. BL's share remained static at about 18 per cent.

'Economic' pits to be redefined

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A new definition of what makes a coal mine "economic" worth developing for the future or scheduled for closure, could be one of the main elements to emerge from an eventual settlement of the miners' dispute.

At present the definition is left to the National Coal Board after discussion with its area management. However, the National Union of Mineworkers argues that the area decisions are being influenced by the system of cash limits placed on area management.

Geological conditions make a profitable pit uneconomic or unsafe overnight. The union is opposed to pits being declared uneconomic because of external issues, such as the price coal is

COLLIERY ECONOMICS: PROFIT OR LOSS PER TONNE						
Pit	1976-77	77-78	78-79	79-80	80-81	81-82
Bethlehem, Kent	-23.9	-24.6	-27.4	-28.1	-210.5	-211
Dawmill, S. Midlands	+25.2	+25.1	+24.2	+25.5	+29.9	+25.7
Cortonwood, S. Yorks	+22.3	+22.6	+22.6	+22.6	+22.6	+22.6
Comrie, Scotland	+22.1	+21.1	+20.0	+22.5	-21.5	-218.8
Oakdale, S. Wales	+29.8	+25.1	+22.6	-212.2	-214.5	-230.7

Source: NCB.

Challenge Redundant miner set up in business

By Craig Seton

Joe Gorman, a miner, received a redundancy payment of £26,000 after tax when he left Cronton Colliery on Merseyside, and went home to his wife to discuss what then seemed the uncertain future that would follow 26 years as an underground worker.

He said yesterday: "I had never even thought about starting my own business, but I did not want to sit around doing nothing so I thought 'blow it, I will have a go'."

Mr Gorman, aged 49, has now decided on a small business as a carpet cleaner, putting up £1,000 of his redundancy immediately and preparing to invest another £3,000 or £4,000 if it succeeds.

He has also applied for help under the government enterprise scheme and, if accepted, he will receive £40 a week for a year to ease the burden of establishing his own enterprise. He has also enrolled on a seven-week business course.

All that has happened since June 23 when he received his redundancy payment - one of about 300 men at Cronton who have opted for redundancy rather than transfer to other pits after the coal board's decision to close the colliery, near Prescott, because geological conditions made it "uneconomic".

He said: "I felt terrible when I left, seeing my whole livelihood go by the board, but now I must admit I feel a little bit excited. It is a whole new ball game for me but I decided that if you are going to get out of the pits and do something, you have really got to go at it, and I am now quite determined."

Mr Gorman, who has two daughters, one married and the other single and working, was a £10,000-a-year tuner at Cronton. Because he is under 50, he receives a lump sum on the basis of about £1,000 a year. Men over 50 receive a smaller lump sum but weekly benefit amounting to about £100. He has no other source of income, other than the interest.

Sale room

London dealer pays record sum for clock

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A pyramid of superb ivory carving with elaborate silver-gilt mounts which doubles as a clock and was made in Augsburg in the mid-seventeenth century became the most expensive clock in the world yesterday when it sold for £842,000 at Christie's.

It was surrounded by "Time, a female corpse with her flesh falling off her bones clutching two lovely girls she is carrying off."

Christie's had estimated more than £100,000 on the piece but a bidding battle developed between Kuros, the London dealer, and Edgar Mannheimer, the leading clock dealer from Zurich. Kuros emerged the victor.

The star of the picture sale, a Bronzino portrait of Cosimo de Medici which Sotheby's had rather hopefully suggested might make £1m, failed to find a buyer; it was bought in at £350,000. Seven lots failed to sell, making 41 per cent of the £1.7m total.



Costliest clock: This timepiece fetched £842,400 yesterday.

"Annual saving? £2 million."

The company is international travel agent Thomas Cook. The speaker is their Chief Executive, Alan Kennedy.

Thomas Cook moved their world HQ here from Berkeley Street, Mayfair. Travelling time from Mayfair to Peterborough is barely an hour and Thomas Cook's savings on annual costs are over £2 million.

They're happy with the people they've recruited in Peterborough, and those who moved here are very happy with the Peterborough lifestyle.

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Tory urges MPs to pull their sartorial socks up

By Alan Hamilton

A Conservative MP has tabled a motion deploring a serious decline in the standard of members' dress within the Chamber of the House of Commons.

Mr Richard Alexander, the relatively well-turned-out member for Newark, has appealed for higher sartorial standards, and although declining to name any particularly guilty parties has made it abundantly clear that the worst transgressors are on the Labour left wing.

His appeal follows a recent reminder from the Commons accommodation and administration sub-committee to MPs who show parties of visitors round the Palace of Westminster that they should discourage their charges from sitting on the benches, blocking access or chewing gum. The committee has made no recommendation on the dress of members, and indeed no set rules exist.

Mr Alexander said yesterday that MP's dress standards had undoubtedly become sloppier in the past three or four months; he particularly objected to members who entered the chamber wearing leather jackets, dark glasses, open-neck shirts and safari-type suits which showed their wearers' vests. Mr Alexander forebore to touch upon the dress of women members.

Although he declined to mention any names, his targets are not difficult to identify. Mr Terry Fields, the Labour MP for Liverpool Broadgreen and a supporter of the Militant Tendency, habitually wears a

BR denies plan to close uneconomic lines

A report which recommends in part that some of Britain's rural railway services should be replaced by buses drew a sharp denial from British Rail yesterday that it was intended to close uneconomic branch lines (Kenneth Gosling writes).

Commenting on the joint report by BR and the Association of County Councils, Mr John Edmonds, director of BR's provincial services, said: "The joint objective is to find ways of maintaining rural services in so far as it is humanly possible... this document gives the lie to the persistent discussion that BR and rail managers are only interested in closure."

County councils are to be asked to look at their local services and to see where they can offer financial help.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said last month that it was not his intention that British Rail should embark on a programme of route closures.

Home Office opens doors of detention centre

In an unprecedented move to forestall criticism, the Home Office yesterday threw open the Harmondsworth detention centre in Middlesex which contains people refused admission to Britain on arrival at Heathrow Airport (Pat Healy writes).

The criticisms of Harmondsworth are to be published next week in a report from the Runnymede Prisoners' Enquiry. The Home Office accused the trust of relying on press reports and allegations from the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.

There were 21 "passengers" at Harmondsworth yesterday, occupying one-third of its capacity. Most had been there for one or two days, but one man had been there since March 16.

Correction

Contrary to our report on cot deaths on June 30, an artificial lung coating has been used to treat only one baby at Brompton Hospital, London. It did not recover.

Overseas selling prices

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Doctor guilty of £158,000 conspiracy to steal hospital blood for plasma

Mr Mark Patterson, aged 50, former consultant haematologist at the National Heart Hospital, was found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of a £158,000 conspiracy to steal hospital blood for illicit plasma sale in Denmark.

He was convicted with two other men, Colin Campbell, aged 57, a former director of the British subsidiary of the Danish company concerned, and John Harris, aged 44, former chief medical officer at the National Blood Transfusion Service.

The three were remanded in custody to be sentenced today with Dr Patterson's assistant, Leslie Dobson, aged 50, who earlier pleaded guilty to his part in the scheme.

Two Army doctors, Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest Parry, aged 51, Commanding Officer of the Army Blood Supply Depot at Aldershot, and Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Thomas, aged 46, his second in command and former chairman of the British Medical Association's ethical committee, were both acquitted of conspiring with Dr Patterson and others and of accepting £18,500 in bribes from him to provide military blood supplies. They were awarded costs.

Campbell was yesterday undergoing tests at St Bartholomew's Hospital after collapsing and striking his head as he left the court for the luncheon adjournment on Wednesday.

The three convicted men and the two army officers had all pleaded not guilty to conspiring to steal blood belonging to the National Heart Hospital between October, 1977, and October, 1981.

Dr Patterson, Campbell and Harris were acquitted of manufacturing the plasma without a licence.

The scheme, masterminded by Dr Patterson, of Cochrane Street, St Johns Wood, north-west London, concerned the sale of plasma from "time-expired" blood supplied by public and military donors.

He was assisted by Dobson and the plasma was extracted in a hospital wash room, a laboratory and in Dr Patterson's garage.

The conspiracy was uncovered after plasma sold to the Danish drugs company,

Nordisk Insulin Laboratorium, in Copenhagen, was found to be contaminated.

Campbell, of Hazeldown House, Scarlett's Lane, Kiln Green, Reading, Berkshire and Harris, of Sterling Avenue, Edware, Middlesex, were convicted of being involved in the sale and provision of the blood.

Dobson, of Sullivan Court, Peterborough Road, Fulham, south-west London, was previously remanded in custody to await sentence at the end of the two-month trial.

Dr Patterson had political aspirations, and became a Conservative member for Chipping Barnet on the Greater London Council, which gave him an opportunity to exercise his flair for building projects.

He was chairman of the planning committee and largely responsible for the redevelopment of Covent Garden into a leading tourist attraction.

The Department of Health and Social Security has told National Health Service officials that they must be able to trace every pint of blood donated. It urged them to improve record-keeping and stock control of blood and blood products.

The instructions were given in a circular which admitted that there were "possible inadequacies in records kept to control the movement of blood from collection to transfusion or disposal".

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Dr Patterson: Sold plasma to Danish firm



Mrs Sally Oppenheim, the former Minister for Consumer Affairs with Mr. John Barnes at Westminster register office where they were married yesterday.

Mrs Oppenheim, Conservative MP for Gloucester since 1970 met Mr Barnes when she opened his factory last March. (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Spies' appeal rejected

Two Latin Americans jailed for seven years each were rightly convicted as Cuban spies, the Court of Appeal in London ruled yesterday.

Lord Justice Ackner said that Antonio Sanchez and Luis Garcia possessed considerable intelligence and had played for high stakes. Their claims now to

have been fighting for the oppressed people of El Salvador strained credulity, he said.

Sanchez, aged 34, a television engineer from Vera Cruz, Mexico, and Garcia, aged 31, a technical agronomist, also from Vera Cruz, were jailed in June, 1982, at the Central Criminal Court.

Bonus for quick work on M-way repairs

By David Cross

The Department of Transport is to introduce a novel scheme to try to speed up the pace of motorway repairs.

Instead of paying a flat rate for motorway repairs as at present, it intends to reward companies which complete their work ahead of schedule and penalize those who overrun promised completion dates.

According to Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, contractors who finish early will get a bonus on top of their regular fee.

"The quicker they do it, the more they will get," he says. "Conversely the contractor who has been charged a 'lane-rental' for each day he overruns the contract period." The ex-

pression "lane-rental" is a euphemism for a daily fine.

Initially the scheme, which is expected to begin later in the year, will be run on an experimental basis. But if it is a success, similar conditions are likely to be written into all future motorway repair contracts.

The concept, which was foreshadowed by Mr Ridley during a meeting with the British Road Federation and the Confederation of British Industry in London last week is designed to get better value out of road scheme funds.

The Department has been under pressure from both organizations to increase its road-building and repair bud-

Charity will not help boy

Dr Barnardo's, the children's homes charity, has withdrawn financial support from a school-boy's attempt to walk from Land's End to John O'Groats, leaving the organizers furious.

Gavin Hilder, aged 13, of Ladbroke Grove, London, hopes to raise £50,000 for Dr Barnardo's, and organizers are to appeal to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the charity's patron, to intervene.

A spokesman for Dr Barnardo's said yesterday that it had reservations. The charity's Public Affairs Officer, Mrs Margaret Barrett, added: "I have never heard of a child so young attempting such a long walk."

The boy, weighs six stone and is 4ft 10in tall.

Estate agent offers free conveyance

By Christopher Warman Property Correspondent

A firm of estate agents yesterday entered the field of conveyancing with the launching of a scheme for house sellers giving them a free legal service.

The scheme, introduced by Morleys, which has 25 branches in the Greater Manchester area, means that a vendor will pay only the usual estate agent's fee for selling the house and having it legally transferred.

Clients will save the solicitor's fee, which is about 0.75 per cent of house prices in the area, and instead pay a fee to include the estate agent's work and legal service.

For properties up to £20,000, Morleys charges £395 plus value added tax. Up to £25,000 the cost is £445 plus VAT, £495 plus VAT for properties up to £35,000 and £545 plus VAT for properties up to £50,000.

The free conveyancing will be handled by a new subsidiary company called Morley Legal Services. It will also provide conveyancing to vendors buying another property at about 0.5 per cent of the purchase price plus VAT and disbursements.

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NCO guilty of punching recruit

A court martial hearing at the RAF training school at Swindon, near Lincoln, announced yesterday that a drill sergeant had been given a "severe reprimand" after being found guilty of ill-treating recruits. The finding and sentence are subject to confirmation.

Sgt James Robertson Saunders had denied seven charges of ill-treatment, but after a hearing lasting two days he was found guilty of punching one recruit and ill-treating two others.

During the hearing recruits alleged that Sgt Saunders had grabbed one of them round the throat and had punched others. Sgt Saunders, who admitted he gave recruits "verbal roastings", claimed that the recruits had conspired to make up the allegations against him.

Swindon is where recruits are given their six weeks' basic training.

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Roger and Helen Greenwell at home with their baby Thomas

Baby was 19oz at birth

A boy who was born prematurely weighing only 19 ounces left hospital yesterday with his parents.

The life of the child, Thomas, hung in the balance when he was born on February 1 at Bristol Maternity Hospital, 17 weeks premature. Only 12 inches long at birth, he now weighs 7lb and is developing normally. The child's mother, Mrs Helen Greenwell, aged 27, said outside the hospital that it was marvellous to be taking home her son, one of very few

babies in Britain to survive when born before 24 weeks.

Her husband Roger, aged 36, was carrying a small bottle which feeds oxygen continuously to his son's lungs through a tube.

The couple live in the village of Dundry, near Bristol.

At birth the child was placed immediately in a special incubator. It was nine weeks before the couple could hold their son for the first time. Mr Greenwell said: "I could feel the life in him like a small bird."

Hailsham rejects Freemasonry charge

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, has denounced as "the purest nonsense" allegations that judges are only appointed from among Freemasons.

In a letter to this week's *Law Society Gazette*, he says: "I feel it right to say that not merely am I not myself a Mason, but that not one of those on my staff who advise me on judicial appointments is one either."

The Lord Chancellor is referring to a recent review in the *Gazette* of a new book, *The Brotherhood: The Secret World of Freemasons* by Stephen Knight, in which the author argues that Freemasonry is rife in the legal profession.

The book quotes a "senior executive" in the Lord Chancellor's Department saying that some barristers seeking judicial appointments turn to the brotherhood.

It says: "When a barrister joins the right Bar Lodge he can be certain of getting on intimate terms with scores of influential judges, big names many of them, and with large numbers of colleagues in the Lord Chancellor's Department."

Lord Hailsham says he does not know who the executive is. "But he was obviously not one of these advisers and, if he exists at all, he does not know what he is reported as talking about."

"To suggest that, in making judicial appointments, I am fed recommendations of Freemasons by Freemasons", is, therefore the purest nonsense," he said.

Both the author and the review make clear that Lord Hailsham does not care whether a man is a Freemason or not.

But on the basis of the "disturbing" material presented in the book, the review suggests he might change his mind about Mr Knight's research being a "worthless activity."

Lord Hailsham comments that he has been correctly quoted as to his views on Mr Knight's activities and having read the book has not altered his opinion.

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British Medical Association

Heroin 'threatens fabric of society'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Heroin addiction in Britain is more like a plague than an epidemic and the Department of Health's move to combat heroin and solvent abuse are too little, too late, the British Medical Association, meeting in Manchester, was told yesterday.

The Association's annual representative meeting called overwhelmingly for tougher legal action, more facilities to treat addicts and to support victims and their families.

Representatives were told that the fabric of society was at risk. Dr Hamid Hussain, from Rotherham, who proposed the motion, said that a third of secondary school pupils had experimented with drugs or solvents.

Ifi Akhter, a consultant with the regional drug treatment unit in Birmingham, said: "For the first time in this country there is no such place as a drug-free environment. The greatest problem in treating addicts is that heroin is now so much cheaper and so easy to obtain."

His clinic saw 30 new addicts a month. "I believe I see only about one in five of the addicts in our area."

Addicts were becoming younger and younger. Sixteen and 17-year-olds were dependent on heroin. Sniffing heroin seemed more addictive than injecting it, he said.

A week's regular use and you are hooked. They spend most of their money on heroin, and beg borrow and steal, and in the case of girls turn to prostitution to pay for their habit.

"Of these people up to one third are likely to die and about one third will recover, but it takes two years at least to deal with a patient properly."

"These people are living on the edge of a precipice and can drop off at any time. One injection with a dirty needle and that's it."

Dr Akhter said: "We could double the facilities we have available and still not be able to cope."

Support for call to divert arms spending to health

The association called for a "massive and progressive reduction in world arms spending, both nuclear and conventional", with the money diverted to health care at home and in developing countries.

The motion, approved after a debate in which some doctors accused the association of making a political stand, was passed by a large majority, well above the two thirds needed to overturn a decision made last year not to take a political stance over nuclear weapons issues.

At the same time the association decided to increase its efforts to publicize the findings of its report last year on the medical effects of nuclear war.

Medical research has been hit five ways by government spending cuts, doctors said yesterday, and important research projects are unable to find funds. More than 20 medical schools had had to curtail research.

Health food enthusiasts are potentially at risk of infection from the growing popularity of untreated goats' milk, the association was told. The meeting called for legislation to ensure that all milk is properly pasteurized.

HOW TO GET YOUR RETIREMENT PENSION OR WIDOW'S BENEFIT DURING DHSS INDUSTRIAL ACTION

DHSS apologises for the inconvenience caused by continued industrial action at its Newcastle computer centre. Because of this action there are changes in the way some benefits issued from Newcastle are being paid. Please check below to see whether you are affected, then follow the instructions.

- If you get your pension book from a local DHSS office because your retirement pension is combined with a supplementary pension, you will not be affected.
- If you have a current order book continue to cash it at the post office in the usual way.
- If your order book runs out you can still be paid on it at the post office. Go there every week as the post office can pay only one week's pension at a time. Take your old order book with you - and your second book if you have one. If you can't go to the post office yourself, someone else can collect your pension for you - but they must take evidence of their own identity with them.

But you can no longer be paid on your old order book if: either your book was for widow's allowance (in which case contact your local DHSS office) or you have applied to change to payment by credit transfer (see below).

- If you are already paid by credit transfer payments will normally continue to be made to your account at the rate payable when the last payment was made. If no payment is made, contact your local DHSS office.
- If you have applied for payment by credit transfer but no payment has yet been made into your account contact your local DHSS office. Take your old order book with you, if you have one.

Payable orders cannot be issued from Newcastle during the industrial action.

- If you are normally paid 4-weekly or quarterly by payable order contact your local DHSS office. Let them have the tear-off portion of the last payable order you received, if you still have it.

Contact your local DHSS office:

- if there is a change in your circumstances
- if you don't have your order book
- if you don't have enough money to live on and want to claim supplementary benefit.

Please do not write or send your order book to DHSS Newcastle until further notice.

PARLIAMENT July 5 1984

Councils get year's stay of execution

PAVING BILL

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, announced to the Commons that the Government had decided to table an amendment to the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill proposing that the present members of the GLC and of the metropolitan county councils should continue in office until 1986 without elections next year.

In the noisy exchanges that followed, Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, made use of a colloquialism Mrs Thatcher had once levelled against the Opposition: "Who's fit now?", he asked. "She is still running away from the ballot box."

First to raise the issue was Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, L), who said: Will Mrs Thatcher admit that the undemocratic provisions of the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill were unprincipled and, on one show some humility and admit that her Government has been wrong?

Mrs Thatcher: The Government has decided to table an amendment to the Bill at report stage in House of Lords proposing that the present members of the GLC and of the metropolitan county councils should continue in office until 1986 and without elections next year.

At the same time, further provisions will be introduced to prevent unreasonable actions by outgoing authorities.

Mr Kinnock: Does not the Prime Minister think it is a pity that we have to go through the Government to make a statement?

Was the original decision made by the Cabinet and announced by her press secretary to the press at 11.45 today that Mr Jenkins would not make a statement, because he was afraid to come here or because she was afraid to let him?

Mrs Thatcher: Absolute nonsense. (Laughter) There are strict rules of order with regard to business between the Commons and the Lords. That is a matter for Mr Speaker and not for me.

Mr Kinnock: Mrs Thatcher knows she is misleading the House and the country. She is still dodging the question just like she is dodging democracy, still running away from the ballot box. Who is afraid? Who is fit now? (Laughter cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: We have hardly afraid on this side. I have already given the reply to this question. That is just bad luck on him.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Glasgow, L), said: Mrs Thatcher more proud; the report of the West of Scotland Conservatives on her strict and unending style of government, or her constitutional achievement in turning the House of Lords into the conscience of the nation?

Mrs Thatcher: We have taken cognisance of what the Lords said. I am interested to know whether all MPs in the opposition parties are

now firmly in favour of the continuance of the their Lordships' House.

Mr John Heddle (Staffordshire, Mid, C), who has now voted from to do the wolf's clothing. Would Mrs Thatcher explain to the country that the abolition of an insensitive and expensive bureaucracy will increase local democracy and accountability?

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. It will mean local government will be actually conducted one tier nearer to the people.

Mr Geoffrey Robinson (Coventry North-West, Lab), her statement on the Bill will fall short of meeting the expectations of the House. It is clear from the development of the past 24 hours that the Secretary of State lost his nerve over the issue and should have made the statement he promised less than a week ago. Will she put the wretched man out of his misery and sack him?

Mrs Thatcher: As far as I am aware Mr Jenkins will be making a statement to this House.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham, North-West, Lab), her Government's policy towards local government is the sinking of the Titanic and before she sacks the Secretary of State for the Environment, that poor bumbling wreck at the end of the Government front bench, will she bear in mind that he was carrying out her instructions to abolish the GLC, which were based on her personal vindictiveness towards Ken Livingstone.

Mrs Thatcher: The councils will be abolished according to the provisions of the Conservative man-

ifesto which was overwhelmingly endorsed by the electorate. (Conservative cheers)

Mr Christopher Smith (Islington, South and Finsbury, Lab), As the Prime Minister has been unable to tell the House why the Secretary of State for the Environment was frightened to tell the House the Government's purpose towards the GLC, will she tell the House and London why she and the Government are frightened of the ballot box and why they should not face the

possibility of asset stripping or the making of long-term contracts of a major order which might prejudice the position of successor bodies.

Lord Harnam-Nicholls (C): There will be acute disappointment that the Government has capitulated so soon. At second reading this House and a majority of 20 to show the general line was what the House wanted.

To capitulate on the first amendment without waiting for the report stage, is too early. Viscount Whitelaw: He is entitled to his view. I cannot accept the word capitulation. If I were to do so, it would mean that I as Leader of the House and member of the Cabinet, took the view that on no occasion should this House be allowed to change something in a Government Bill. I do not take that view.

Lord Mollison (C) said he congratulated the Government on its response. It showed strength, not weakness, to heed respectful argument, especially in relation to an important constitutional principle.

Lady Birk (Lab) said it was unlikely the Government would be able to complete the complex legislation which would be needed for the abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan counties in less than a year as proposed. It could take 18 months and the same councils would be in situ without further elections. There was no precedent for such a situation.

Viscount Whitelaw: It would not be appropriate for me to get into arguments today; we will do that at the report stage.

electors in a ballot next May, which would be the democratic and decent thing to do?

Mrs Thatcher: He must be under some illusion. The Secretary of State will be making a statement. The district council elections will take place in the usual way and the result of the latest poll on Europe was that we won it handsomely.

After Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, had indicated the Government's intentions, Dr John Cunniff, spokesman on the environment, asked: Is not this apology of the degree of panic and incompetence now prevalent in his office?

Does not the statement mean that elections will have to be cancelled in advance of the House of Commons and the Lords taking a final view on abolition? Was not that a central objection to the Bill as expressed in the amendment carried so convincingly in the Lords?

Is not an extension of the term of office almost certain to be needed for more than one year, given the complexity of the work done by the metropolitan county councils and the GLC?

There is no precedent, in spite of his assertions, for extending terms of office before the main issue of the future of the councils in reorganisation has been decided?

Mr Jenkin: I find his criticism of the proposals I have put before the House a little strange. After all, it was Mr David Clark (an Opposition spokesman on the environment) who, at second reading, on the paving Bill, said: "I can sympathise with the Secretary of State's claim that it would have been wasteful to hold elections. I fully realise that, but the natural thing to do in those circumstances is to allow local authorities to continue in existence for another year. As that is precisely what we are doing, I cannot understand his complaint."

Mr Francis Pym (South East Cambridgeshire, C): Many of us are much relieved that the quangos that were going to be brought into existence to take over from the councils are not now going to come in.

Does he appreciate that the manner in which this reform is carried through is important? How is he going to ensure that the Government's decisions made known to the House? Will he ensure that some document or White Paper or report can be debated by this House before there is a second reading on the main Bill?

Does he appreciate that the debate that has raged sharply during the last six to nine months has given rise to a feeling in some metropolitan counties and particularly in London, that some body is needed to have a strategic overview of the affairs of our capital city?

Mr Jenkin: I am hoping I may be able to publish before the House

comes a brief parliamentary document which will set out in summary the Government's decisions on the designation of the functions at present carried out by the GLC and the metropolitan county councils.

I am well aware of the view that there needs to be some upper tier authority to take an overview. That is not the view of the Government. We believe that services currently carried out by the GLC and the metropolitan county councils can overwhelmingly be devolved to the true organs of local government - the local borough and district councils.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L): Will he now admit that the proposals that were his idea and that he persuaded the Cabinet to adopt, were unconstitutional and wrong? Will he assure the House that because they were his idea it will not be him taking us through the next proposals?

Lord Harnam-Nicholls: Will he tell us whether, for whatever period he proposes, these councils shall continue, his party proposes to fight elections that arise at by-elections or whether it proposes to boycott them as further evidence that they do not really believe in democracy after all?

Mr Jenkin: There is no question of who takes the Bill through in the Lords. Here the other Bill is a matter for the Prime Minister.

The legislation will, of course, allow by-elections to continue and arrangements will no doubt be made in the House to deal with them.

Mr Ian Gilmour (Chesham and Amersham, C): May I congratulate him on a timely and necessary concession? Will he be so good as to help to make it extremely difficult and obstructive. The choice is entirely with him.

The Government intends to complete the abolition and to hand over by April 1986.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C): Support for his proposals in the abolition Bill next session will still depend upon the Government's ability to back and decide whether to extend the present GLC for a further year to 1987.

Mr Jenkin: He is in a position to influence his friends to make sure that this transition, if approved by the House in the abolition Bill, goes smoothly and successfully. He could help to make it extremely difficult and obstructive. The choice is entirely with him.

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Mr Jenkin: That is a burden of proof I shall be happy to discharge. Mr Patrick Cormack (Staffordshire South, L) asked Mr Jenkin to reflect on the difficulty next year in trying to get the abolition Bill through in good time to make proper, sensible and realistic provisions for the takeover as early as 1986.

Mr Jenkin: It was important to get a smooth handover of functions to the lower tier authorities.

reorganization of local government elections are suspended.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C): While the move is entirely sensible and many of us are strongly in favour of devolving more functions to the London boroughs and getting rid of the GLC, he would get a lot more support for his policies if he would recognize the need for a London-wide government in the replacement arrangements to deal with London-wide matters rather than see them all lost in Whitehall and various quangos.

Mr Jenkin: We have considered this point carefully together with the leaders of the London boroughs who have been consulting with us. We believe the services are best devolved to the London boroughs themselves.

No doubt these are issues which will be debated when the main abolition Bill is presented in this House.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab): Has a grim future behind him, Mr Jenkin? This statement will solve nothing. Dismantling the GLC is going to take considerably longer than a year even given good will in County Hall, and there is not much of that towards him.

What advice will he give his successor? In a year's time or thereabouts someone will have to come back and decide whether to extend the present GLC for a further year to 1987.

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Minister pins faith in ingenuity of farmers

MILK QUOTAS

The huge majority of dairy farmers would be able to adapt their business to take account of the cuts in milk production, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, said during Commons questions in reply to Mr Alan Haselhurst (Saffron Walden, C) who said some farmers would suffer severe financial loss which could endanger their livelihoods because of the milk quotas.

Mr Jopling said he believed that the huge majority of farmers would be able to adapt their business. The milk industry would require adjustment. While nationally there would be serious problems for milk producers, their ingenuity would get them through.

Dr Mark Hughes, an Opposition spokesman on agriculture, asked Mr Jopling to meet representatives of the farmworkers since in the outgoers scheme a 40-year-old stockman who lost his job would be entitled to only £900 redundancy - rather less than for the cows.

Mr Jopling said he met farmworkers at their stand at the Royal Show. The comparisons between statutory redundancy payments and the outgoers scheme are false (he went on).

The outgoers scheme is not redundancy. It is intended to help the industry to adjust to the new situation by encouraging those who wish to go out of milk production. The outgoers do not have to give up farming.

Mr Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster, C) asked if Mr Jopling would get to Europe as quickly as he could and press for greater opportunities of transfer, perhaps by means of leasing.

There is (he went on) uncertainty about the future. Whether or not we are stuck for better or worse with these milk quotas, can we perhaps have a longer-term plan for milk?

Mr Jopling: With regard to quota transfers, I am intrigued by the possibility of leasing. At present there is nothing within the Community rules which would allow us to do that, but we are giving it urgent attention.

There is uncertainty in the industry, for obvious reasons. I hope that shortly we can get a great many of these matters sorted out, particularly with regard to quotas, after we have dealt with the special cases.

We cannot move further until we have passed the draft regulations under the new European Communities Act setting out detailed arrangements for implementing the quota system. I am anxious to give attention to what is

I hope (he said later) there will be no question of farmers not knowing what their quotas are before the end of this milk year. I do not think that I say exactly when farmers will know precisely what their quotas are because we have no idea how many of them will apply for consideration under the special case arrangements to get the 2½ per cent of milk production we have reserved.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C): Is he confident he can assemble quickly enough the administrative and appeal machinery to deal with what many of us fear will be something of a bureaucratic nightmare?

Mr Jopling: The implementation of the quotas and super-leaves will be difficult in bureaucratic terms, but I am confident that immediately after Parliament has agreed the regulations, we shall be able to get the applications and consideration of them moving very fast.

Mr Robert Hughes, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, will be clarify the Minister of State's remarks in relation to hardship cases far and weather conditions? These suggest that no one can apply until a region is designated as having a 10-15 per cent cut in production because of weather. If that is so, it is a serious matter in getting these hardship cases considered.

Mr Jopling: Hard cases based on weather, will be a matter for individual cases and will not be done on a regional basis.

Mr Robb Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C): As he has told the House the outgoers scheme is not a compensation scheme, when did he tell either the Commission or the Cabinet that he insists on compensation for those driven out of economic milk production which parallels that given to steel workers who are driven out of their region by the steel quota on steel? When did he do that and, if he did not, when will he?

Mr Jopling: A comparison between the statutory redundancy scheme and the outgoers scheme is false because outgoers do not have to leave farming. They are only obliged to give up dairying.

Mr Jopling said later that some Labour MPs seemed to believe that the outgoers payment was £650 per cow per year but it was actually £650 per cow which would be paid over five years.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) said he wanted to know what would happen to those dairy farmers who could not continue and for whom there was no other sort of farming to go into.

Will Mr Jopling (he asked) change the outgoers scheme to ensure that it is tax free, instead of giving the nonsensical reply he had given today?

Mr Jopling replied that the purpose of the outgoers scheme was to get 2½ per cent of the total milk quota available for reallocation, by reallocating the first 1.25 per cent of that to small farmers who had less than 40 cows who were 40 per cent of all milk producers, bring them back to their 1983 production patterns. This was directed to dealing with the people Mr Winterton had mentioned.

Mr Ronald Davies (Caerphilly, Lab): It is ironic that Mr Jopling should give greater priority to hardship cases arising from an act of God than to cases arising from the act of man himself. Mr Jopling replied with laughter that he did not think all these occurrences were acts of God.

One, for instance, is theft or loss of cattle (he said) so I hope this is not so.

The others were all natural disasters: destruction of fodder or buildings. Some were disasters to animals, compulsory appropriations of land and serious illness of producers. They were all serious matters.

Motorway accidents

Provisional estimates for 1983 show that 16 people were killed and about 120 seriously injured on motorways in Great Britain in accidents where the presence of roadworks was recorded. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said in a written reply in the Commons.

It is absurd to suppose that Sir Geoffrey is in any way to blame for failing to achieve a meeting of minds in Moscow. The Soviet leaders have pooled long before his arrival that this is to be an icy summer, and there was nothing he could reasonably have done to change it.

Nor is there anything more that the Reagan Administration should be asked to do to bring the Soviet negotiators back to the table. The President's earlier rhetoric could, indeed, be faulted, but nowadays he is falling over himself to emphasize his eagerness to talk.

Perhaps the Soviet Union will decide to resume negotiations before November if it is certain that Mr Reagan will be re-elected. Perhaps it will wait until after the election. Perhaps it will wait still longer for some internal development.

In the meantime, the sensible course for the West is to be ready to respond but not to throw away any cards. To criticize Sir Geoffrey or any other Western leader for returning empty-handed from Moscow is both unfair and positively damaging to the chances of a balanced negotiation.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Debate on private Members' motion on sport and recreation. Cable and Broadcasting Bill, remaining stages.

Tuesday: Debate on European affairs. Wednesday: Finance (No 2) Bill, progress on report stage. Thursday: Finance (No 2) Bill, completion of remaining stages.

Friday: Debate on prevention of drug misuse. The main business in the House of Lords next week will be: Monday: Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, committee, fourth day.

Tuesday: Health and Social Security Bill, report. Wednesday: Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, committee, fifth day. Thursday: Trade Union Bill, report.

General welcome from peers

The Government's decision to postpone the GLC and metropolitan county elections was favourably received in the House of Lords, with the exception of Lord Harnam-Nicholls (C) who said the Government had capitulated too soon.

Viscount Whitelaw, Leader of the House and Lord President of the Council, said it had been his job to represent the strong views that had been expressed to his colleagues in the Cabinet. Their response showed that attention was being paid to the opinions of the House of Lords.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, Leader of the Opposition peers, opened the response by expressing gratitude that the result of the vote on June 28 had caused the Government, to a significant extent, to accept the view of the House of Lords.

We are nevertheless (he said) disappointed that elections are not to be held and we shall have to reserve our position until we have had an opportunity to consider the amendment in detail after it has been tabled.

When will the amendment be tabled (he asked) and will he confirm there will be no interim commission or further interim body as a result of the amendment? Can he say what is meant by the words "going on into 1986" in the Bill enable by-elections to be held and what is meant by "unreasonable action"?

Lord Diamond (SDP): We are grateful for this statement by the Government and grateful for this further evidence that the Leader of the House has been committed to listen to the views of the House.

especially when they are expressed with great clarity and to carry them favourably with his colleagues in the Cabinet.

The Government's decision is a clear acknowledgment that this House has been carrying out its proper and important constitutional rights.

There are many aspects of the statement that require careful consideration. The Government has given this matter careful consideration before making this statement. It would be proper that we should reciprocate and give the statement careful consideration.

Viscount Whitelaw: I am grateful that Lord Cledwyn feels some progress has been made. It was my clear view after the debate last week that the nominated transitional councils were much disliked by many peers in all parts of the House. It was the view that this was something which should not have been done democratically and I represented to my colleagues that this was the strong view of this House.

Other considerations will have to be given to the statement and I am grateful to Lord Diamond for having said it deserves careful consideration.

The amendment would probably be tabled on Wednesday, but if he could do better than that he would. The interim councils had been into 1986, but the phrase "going on into 1986" meant until April when the borough council elections would take place.

The Bill would allow by-elections to be held and the phrase "unreasonable actions" referred to

the possibility of asset stripping or the making of long-term contracts of a major order which might prejudice the position of successor bodies.

Lord Harnam-Nicholls (C): There will be acute disappointment that the Government has capitulated so soon. At second reading this House and a majority of 20 to show the general line was what the House wanted.

To capitulate on the first amendment without waiting for the report stage, is too early. Viscount Whitelaw: He is entitled to his view. I cannot accept the word capitulation. If I were to do so, it would mean that I as Leader of the House and member of the Cabinet, took the view that on no occasion should this House be allowed to change something in a Government Bill. I do not take that view.

Lord Mollison (C) said he congratulated the Government on its response. It showed strength, not weakness, to heed respectful argument, especially in relation to an important constitutional principle.

Lady Birk (Lab) said it was unlikely the Government would be able to complete the complex legislation which would be needed for the abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan counties in less than a year as proposed. It could take 18 months and the same councils would be in situ without further elections. There was no precedent for such a situation.

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Tories 'trying to line pockets out of NHS'

HEALTH SERVICE

There were at least 31 identified Tory MPs who had a financial stake, in companies profiting from health care, Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, declared at the start of a Commons debate on the National Health Service.

He said he had a letter which listed them all, but later, on a point of order, Mr Denis Skidmore (Bolton, Lab) read out a list which contained the following 24 names:

Mr Michael Ancram (Under Secretary of State, Scotland), Mr Peter Bottomley, Mr Timothy Britton, Mr Michael Brown, Mr John Browne, Mr Michael Forsyth, Mr Eric Forth, Mr Marcus Fox, Mr John Goss, Mr Anthony Grant, Mr Robert Hicks, Mr Peter Horden, Mr Charles Irving, Mr Robert Jones, Mr Geoffrey Lawler, Mr Anthony Marlow, Dr Brian Mawhinney, Mr Timothy Renton, Mr Hugh Ross, Mr Frederick Silver, Mr Anthony Stern, Mr Neville Trotter, Mr William van Straubenzee, and Mr John Whitfield.

Mr Skidmore added: We and drys from top to bottom, but they are all trying to line their pockets out of the NHS.

In ensuing points of order, Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) said one on Mr Skinner's list, Mr Michael Ancram, was a minister

and therefore not permitted to have any vested interests.

Mr Skinner (he said) either has to withdraw or an inquiry has to take place as to whether the minister in the Scottish Office has a vested interest.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Harold Walker): I am sure Mr Ancram is as capable of taking care of himself as any other MP.

Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab) said he understood Mr Ancram owned 1,491 shares in Grand Met Catering services, a subsidiary of Grand Metropolitan.

Mr Walker: MPs should be careful about using the privilege bestowed upon them by the House in making remarks which reflect upon the character of other MPs, whether ministers or otherwise.

Until the contrary has been determined we must assume that all MPs are honourable in their conduct and the ministers observe the usual rules which relate to the conditions of their taking office.

Mr Skinner: I have not acted under any cloak of privilege. What I have said, reading from a newspaper, I am quite prepared to repeat outside. Those names are public. If anyone in the House is upset by the publication of those names they ought to deal with the newspaper that has printed them.

the Royal Family has held the office. The Queen is patron of the association, which was founded in 1956.

They are (front row, left to right): Mr H. Errington, GC (Hon treasurer); Major-General H. R. B. Foote (vice chairman); Lord De

L'Isle VC (deputy president); Rear Admiral E. C. G. Place, VC, (chairman); Captain F. G. Gardner VC (hon secretary); Air Commodore F. M. E. West, VC (second vice president); Mrs D. Grahame (secretary); Mrs A. J. Glenhill, GC; Mrs Odette Hallows, GC; Air Vice-Marshal Sir Laurence Sinclair, GC; Lt Colonel S. G. Styles, GC; Mrs Margaret Purves, GC; Wing Commander L.

Housing and job markets still worst for black Britons

By Pat Healy, Race Relations Correspondent

Black Britons are still at the bottom of the job and housing markets because of the persistence of racial disadvantage, a government-sponsored survey from the Policy Studies Institute says today.

Racial inequalities, far from being removed by race relations Acts and government initiatives aimed at overcoming them, have become entrenched and self-sustaining.

The disadvantages suffered by well-established and settled black communities in Britain have been exacerbated by the recession, which has also fuelled racial hostility from whites.

This depressing picture, the survey says, means that vigorous positive action is needed to overcome the persistence of racial inequality in Britain, because a legal framework outlawing racial discrimination has been shown to be inadequate on its own.

'Jumble of old and new inequalities'

The survey is the third on the situation of black people in Britain to be conducted by the institute, an independent social policy research unit.

The researchers expected to find a substantial reduction in the levels of inequality identified in the previous surveys, in 1967 and 1974, which both led to legislation and administrative changes.

Instead, they found "a complex jumble of old and new inequalities", partly because of direct racial discrimination, but also because black people are disadvantaged by institutions which take no account of cultural differences.

The position of black Britons remains, geographically and economically, the same as when they first arrived in the 1950s and 1960s.

People of Asian or West Indian origin are more likely than white people to be unemployed. Those in work tend to have jobs with lower pay and lower status than those of white workers, with black men generally earning about £20 a week less than white men.

Changes between 1974 and 1982 show that there has been very little difference in the types of jobs done by black people, and unemployment rates have sharply diverged between white and black.

"The British job market has changed little in its hostility to black workers, except that it now excludes more of them from work altogether", the report says.

A rising proportion of British Asians have responded by turning to self-employment. A tenth of those who were employees in 1974 had started their own business by 1982, and the proportion of all working Asians who are self-employed nearly doubled during the same period.

Appeal by jilted lover rejected

Pamela Megginson, the jilted mistress jailed for life for the murder of her lover with a champagne bottle, was yesterday refused leave to appeal against her conviction. Mrs Megginson, aged 61, the daughter of a country squire, battered her wealthy lover, Mr Alec Hubbers, aged 79, a furniture manufacturer, to death with a champagne bottle at his love nest on the French Riviera after he rejected her for a younger French mistress.

Her counsel, Mr William Howard, QC, told the Court of Appeal yesterday that it had been conceded that she was provoked and the charge could have been reduced to manslaughter. He criticized the trial judge Mr Justice Taylor for not telling the jury in his summing up that Mrs Megginson was a vulnerable woman.

But Lord Justice Parker sitting with Mr Justice Drake and Sir John Thompson said in their judgment the summing up was "not open to criticism". He added: "There is no error in the summing up and the application is dismissed."

Mrs Megginson of North Road, Whitehouse, Cambridge, was not brought from Holloway prison for the hearing.

Court ruling on heath gypsies

The Greater London Council took the first legal step yesterday to evict gypsies who have set up camp on Hampstead Heath. At a brief private hearing in the High Court, Mr Justice Beldam gave the council leave to serve notice on the gypsies and to abridge the usual two-day waiting period so they can seek possession of the site today.

"Self-employment is not a guarantee of economic success, indeed for some individuals it leads to financial ruin", the report says. "But it has an overwhelming appeal when compared to ordinary employment in a labour market that is hostile to the advancement of black people."

The concentration of black people into lower paid, low status jobs means that their employment has been lost faster than for white groups, the report says. Unemployment itself, which hinders job mobility, will play its own part in maintaining the distinct and inferior occupational patterns among black workers which show no signs of breaking down.

Black people still in jobs are nevertheless poorer than other groups, both because they have lower pay and because they have to sustain households on average larger than those of white wage earners.

The survey found, too, that Asians with low wages and large households are more reluctant than other groups to claim family income supplement.

Household incomes of Asian and West Indian people are also reduced because many regularly send money to dependants in their country of origin, averaging £17 a month from West Indians and £26 from Asians.

Black people in Britain live in worse housing than the quality of housing in general. They are more often found in flats, often on higher floors, which adds to the disadvantages of the high proportion of one-parent families among West Indians.

Many families in high-rise flats

Those with houses are less likely to have detached or semi-detached property. Black families also live in smaller properties despite their larger households.

Black households more often share rooms or amenities with other households, their homes are older and they are much less likely to have a garden. Those differences persist in both council housing and owner-occupied properties.

Housing for black people did improve between the last two surveys, with fewer shared facilities or lacking basic amenities, and there was a considerable drop in the proportion living in housing built before the First World War.

But the disparity between white and black tenants of council housing actually grew, partly because of parallel improvements among white tenants and partly because the gap was so big in the first place.

The disadvantages still suffered by black people in Britain are compounded by a lack of confidence in the protection offered by the police against racial attacks.

Black and White Britain: The Third PSI Survey, by Colin Brown, (Hemmann Educational Books/Policy Studies Institute, Cass £22.50, paperback £8.95).

MPs attack Trident payments

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Arrangements for financing work in the United States for the new Trident strategic missile system for Britain were criticized yesterday by a committee of MPs.

They are concerned that advance quarterly payments by Britain, part of which may remain unpaid for some time, attract no interest.

The issue is raised in a report on the Trident programme published by the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee.

About £4,000m of the estimated total cost of Trident of more than £9,000m will be spent in the United States. That has to be financed by quarterly payments in advance on the work expected to be done in that period.

The committee estimates that if interest had been paid on the used-balance of these payments, about \$4.1m (about £3m) would have been received over a two and a half year period.

That is a small sum, but it relates to a period when spending was low.

As spending builds up, the committee says, the average balance in the trust fund account into which the money is paid will be "substantial".

It says that the Ministry of Defence should urgently pursue "changes in the application of the present funding arrangements for expenditure in the United States which will provide for the payment of interest on unused balances".

Nineteenth Report from the Committee of Public Accounts, Session 1983-84: The United Kingdom Trident Programme, Command No 348, Stationery Office, £3.75.

British nuclear tests in Australia

Royal commission of inquiry set up

From Tony Daboudin, Melbourne

A Royal commission will investigate British nuclear tests in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s including those on Monte Bello Island, off the west coast.

Senator Peter Walsh, Minister for Resources and Energy, said yesterday that the commission would be headed by Mr Jim McClelland, Chief Justice of the New South Wales Land and Environment Court, and a former minister in the Whitlam Government.

He will be assisted by Miss Jill Fitch, senior health physicist with the South Australian Commission, and Dr William Jones, a lecturer in geography at the University of Newcastle, New South Wales.

At the same time, it was discovered that Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, had written to Mrs Thatcher asking for British cooperation in the inquiry.

The commission will concentrate on what safety precautions were employed when the tests were carried out and what happened to the radioactive waste.

As well as the big bomb tests in the 1950s, the inquiry will also look at the minor trials which ended in 1962. It will judge the testing against standards of the day and those that apply now.

Senator Walsh said the main thrust of the inquiry would be on the effects of the testing programme, rather than trying to apportion blame. Special emphasis would be placed on those closely involved, such as Australian servicemen, including decontamination teams,

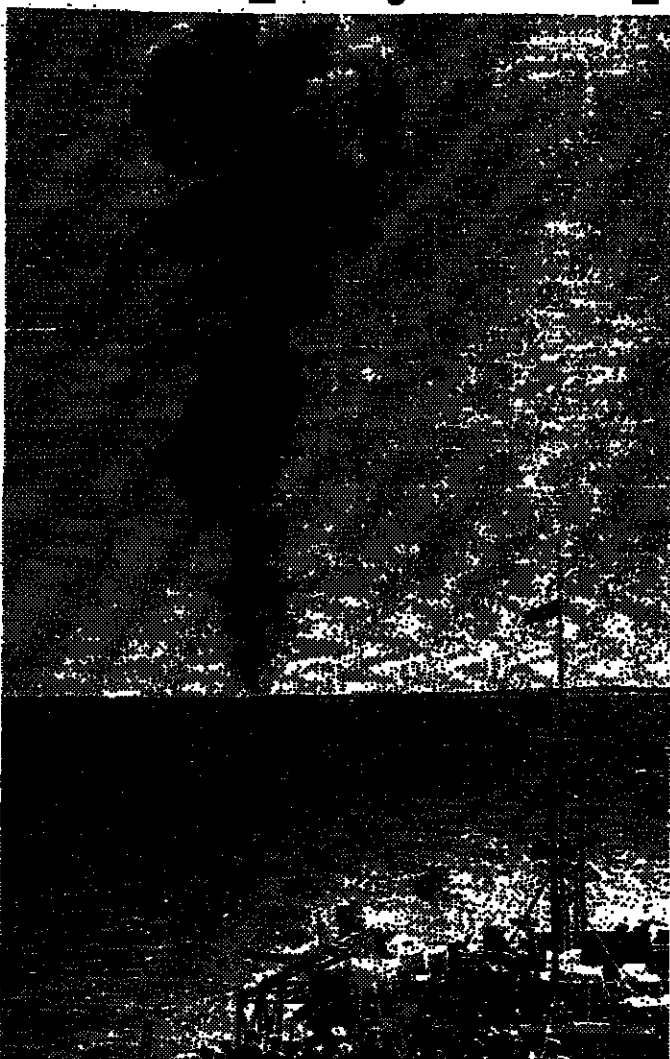
those employed on the test sites, aboriginals and other civilians in the area.

"Obviously, it should not have been done," the tests had been done, though, and the two problems facing them were, firstly, determining the facts so far as it is possible to, and, second, what was the best response not only on the health question, if that should be confirmed by the inquiry. There was also the residual contamination problem.

Senator Walsh said the British Government had agreed to the use of classified material as long as it was not published with results or recommendations.

The royal commission has been given until June to report. The commission has been asked to examine:

- Management and conduct of the tests and minor trials, including criteria for safe holding of tests;
- What arrangements were made to stop unauthorized people from entering prohibited areas;
- Radiological and health standards;
- Arrangements for monitoring fall-outs;
- Disposal of contaminated equipment and buildings;
- Steps taken to manage tests and trial sites after tests. The inquiry is also to consider and report on any evidence of adverse health effects arising from the tests, and to make recommendations about future management of the sites.



Flashback: HMS Narvik recording results off Monte Bello island after a nuclear test in May 1956.

Protest note on flights over Rock rejected

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain has declined to accept a British protest note on flights by Spanish Air Force aircraft over Gibraltar, Foreign Ministry sources disclosed here yesterday.

The British protest, which was delivered on Monday, was in reply to one made last week by Spain to Britain. Madrid claimed there had been a "very marked" increase in exercises by the RAF stationed in Gibraltar in the past six months, violating Spanish air space.

The air space over Gibraltar is regarded by Spain as part of its air space in accordance with Spain's claims of sovereignty over the Rock. This has been one of the obstacles to a settlement of the Gibraltar dispute, despite the 1980 Lisbon agreement.

The Spaniards have been similarly upset when British warships call in at Gibraltar, maintaining they cannot accept any other jurisdiction in the waters around Gibraltar. They maintain they only tolerate the passage of ships.

The British protest comes after a visit to Gibraltar recently by Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, during which the issue of Spanish military flights over Gibraltar was raised. The Spanish flights are potentially a hazard to civilian traffic at Gibraltar's tiny airport.

Sri Lanka lifts blanket newspaper censorship

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

The blanket censorship imposed on foreign correspondents and Sri Lankan newspapers on June 12 has been lifted. But in local newspapers there will still be limited censorship on news about terrorist activities under the prevention of terrorism act.

The general censorship, under provisions of a state of emergency, was introduced as a precautionary measure. The Government feared that violent demonstrations that had taken place in Colombo and the eastern province against the opening of an Israeli interests section at the United States Embassy in Colombo would spread to other parts of the island. Those fears proved unfounded.

In the latest incident reported to police headquarters yesterday, rebels in the eastern province critically injured two policemen and got away with 20 guns when they attacked a police camp at the town of Amparapura.

On Wednesday night Parliament unanimously voted that rupees 168 million (about £5m) should be spent on three "mother craft" for naval patrol boats.

Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, the Minister of National Security, told Parliament that since the introduction of the zone suspected rebels had been killed or captured while trying to avoid detection within it.

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Israeli security squads terrorize villagers in southern Lebanon

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, southern Lebanon

Shin Bet - Israel's heavily-armed and much-feared plain clothes security police - are being sent on missions into southern Lebanon in an attempt to stop the rising number of guerrilla attacks against Israeli occupation troops in the country.

But the Shin Bet operations - involving up to 15 men at a time under the command of an Israeli, Lieutenant-Colonel in the city of Tyre - are causing the gravest concern to United Nations officers in the south after four Israelis, dressed in T-shirts and jeans and carrying M16 rifles, shot dead a 27-year-old man in the small hill village of Bidias.

The Shin Bet men operating in southern Lebanon have been issued with white identification cards signed by Lieutenant-Colonel Alex Schneider, an Israeli who acts as liaison officer to the UN. The commander of Shin Bet operations is Lieutenant-Colonel Yacov Sweidan, who is based at the Israeli Army's intelligence headquarters next to the Lebanese Army's old barracks in Tyre.

Shin Bet operatives are using four cars - often without number plates - which are familiar to many villagers in the south. Their appearance on the narrow, winding roads of the area is beginning to inspire terror among thousands of Shia Muslims there since the shooting at Bidias.

It was early in the afternoon of June 14 that three carsloads of Shin Bet security men in

civilian clothes turned up at a United Nations roadblock outside the village, where about 500 people live in single-story houses that straggle across a hilltop north-east of Tyre. There were 15 men in the cars and they showed the UN soldiers, who were from the Senegalese battalion, white security cards, marked "Israel Defence Force/Sherut Bitachon (Shin Bet)", each signed by Colonel Schneider. The soldiers therefore let the three cars pass their roadblock and enter Bidias.

According to the villagers, the first car, a white Mercedes, pulled up outside a garage belonging to Morshed Nahas, an official of the local Amal Shia Muslim militia movement - with whom the Israelis had previously cooperated - while a man with blue eyes and blond hair in the back of the car called out Nahas's name.

The other two vehicles circled the small square outside at speed, apparently to prevent villagers from approaching. Eight of the Israelis, all armed with M16 rifles, took up positions in doorways round the square.

When Nahas's mother, Sawzieh, reached the square, she says she saw her son being pulled into the back of the Mercedes, his feet still dangling on the road, but that she was pushed aside by one of the gunmen, Latifa Ghannouchi, a village girl who had been standing next to Nahas, says she heard one of the men say to him

in Arabic, "Choose the kind of death you want".

Members of Nahas's family and neighbours described seeing four gunmen in blue and yellow T-shirts and jeans shoot him repeatedly in the head, afterwards.

They found Nahas lying in a pool of blood.

Local reporters in southern Lebanon were later told by the Israelis that Nahas was shot while resisting arrest. According to Mr Daoud Daoud, the Amal representative for southern Lebanon, Nahas had earlier been approached by the Israelis to work for their "south Lebanon army" militia and had refused.

Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Shannon a UN spokesman, said yesterday that the armed men who entered the village were "Israel defence force personnel in civilian clothes", that the cars bore no registration plates, and that the men inside carried identity cards issued by Colonel Schneider.

"After every bombing incident against the Israelis", Colonel Shannon said, "there is a reaction by the Israelis - especially if any Israeli soldier is killed or injured."

"The Israelis claim they are an occupation army and have the right to pass through our checkpoints. We know the Shin Bet and they are seeking out people who are either planning or plotting or carrying out aggressive action against the Israelis."

Army clears Beirut's Green Line barricades

Beirut (Reuters) - The Lebanese Army used huge bulldozers and earth loaders yesterday to punch holes in "Green Line" barricades which have separated the warring halves of Beirut for five months.

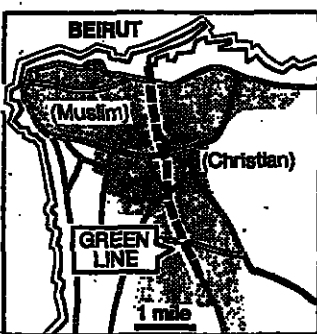
Work proceeded slowly as army engineers tried to remove mountains of sand, earth and rubble thrown up and fortified by Christian and Muslim militiamen who have been waging war across the line since February 6.

For the second day the Lebanese capital was quiet. No shelling or armed clashes were reported as a new security agreement appeared to be holding. A few bursts of small arms fire were heard through the day, but no casualties were reported.

Among the obstacles facing the Army at the three key east-west crossing points they have been ordered to reopen were shell craters, land mines, unexploded mortar bombs, toppled lamp posts, burst water mains and curious onlookers.

Since Lebanon's civil war entered a phase of new intensity in February when Muslim militias took over west Beirut, there has been only one official crossing point in the Green Line, at the abandoned museum in the geographical centre of the city.

A new peace plan of the "National Unity" Government calls for militiamen to withdraw from the streets, the Army to take over security, crossing points to be opened and Beirut port and airport to resume operations after a five-month closure.



Kreisky envoy tries to help PoW exchange

DAMASCUS - A special envoy of former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has arrived here for talks with Palestinian leaders aimed at an eventual exchange of Palestinian prisoners in Israel and Israeli prisoners held by Palestinians in Syria, an Austrian diplomatic source said (AFP reports).

The envoy, Herr Herbert Emry, was to meet with the leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command

the Government's legal powers to keep vital services running.

Earlier this week, similar orders had to be issued to electricity workers during a strike, since resolve which blocked out large areas of the country. The rash of strikes has been prompted by an inflation rate of more than 400 per cent, although the diplomats are specifically demanding parity with agents employed by Mossad, Israel's secret service.

The Foreign Ministry employees have vowed to step up their sanctions despite the orders.

After signing the orders, Mr David Kimche, the Foreign Ministry Director-General, told staff that he supported their demand for equal pay with Mossad agents - his own previous job. But he said that now was not the time to press for it, and called for a return to normal working.

Aquino may have been shot twice

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Fresh evidence that Mr Benigno Aquino, the Philippine opposition leader, may have been shot twice, not once as the Government claims, has prompted the commission investigating his murder to ask for his body to be exhumed for further examination.

A letter seeking the approval of Mrs Conzon Aquino, his widow, has been drawn up, Mr Luciano Salazar, a commission member, said.

Mrs Aquino, aged 51, has refused to comment until the formal request is received. The Aquino family has refused to take part in the inquiry since it began in November.

Asked if the commission of five members would order an exhumation even if his widow denied their request, Mr Salazar said that the board "would cross that bridge when we come to it".

Diplomats ordered back to work

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

In an attempt to end Israel's damaging diplomatic isolation, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, who doubles as Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, has ordered the issuing of mandatory back to work orders to about 200 Israeli diplomats abroad and 100 of the 500 employees at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

The move came amid warnings about the serious effects of the diplomats' work-to-rule, just one of many industrial disputes ranging from the rabbinical courts - which handle divorce - to the Elit docks which have caused widespread chaos during the run up to the July 23 general election.

Within hours of the orders being issued the strikers, who include some of Israel's most senior and respected diplomats, were threatening to resist them by an appeal to the High Court. Mr Yoab Behri, chairman of the staff committee claims they were "a spurious extension" of



War's victim: A young Lebanese who lost his legs in the fighting watches from a wheelchair as the barricades come down in Beirut.

Army generals go as Alfonsin reasserts civilian control

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, facing his first crisis of military discipline since he took office last December, accepted the resignation of his army chief of staff and ordered at least one other top general into retirement late on Wednesday night.

General Jorge Arguindegui, the chief of staff, resigned after being caught up in persistent rumours of military unrest among top and middle-ranking officers. He will be replaced by General Gustavo Pianta.

President Alfonsin also ordered into retirement General Pedro Mansilla, the commander of the powerful Third Army Corps who was reportedly in conflict with General Arguindegui.

Political sources said that President Alfonsin had requested General Arguindegui's resignation in an effort to preserve military discipline and reassert civilian control over the armed forces.

According to unconfirmed reports, General Alfonsin took his decision to dismiss the army chief of staff, whom he had selected, after General Mansilla refused to comply with General Arguindegui's request to resign, his commission.

Although unrest in the military has been an open secret for months, the rumours of discontent became a crisis only when General Arguindegui complained publicly during a radio interview last weekend

that there was a plot to remove him.

Officers in all three armed forces are unhappy about several issues, including low salaries, investigations of human rights abuses by the military, and the Alfonsin Administration's efforts to reorganize the armed forces and to bring them under stricter civilian control.

Few political observers believe however that there is any danger of a military uprising against the seven-month old Government.

Senator Adolfo Gass, President of the Senate foreign relations committee, said yesterday that the affair "is already over" and that the forced resignation of the two generals would have "a positive effect, because it would

reinforce the President's authority over the military".

Other reports indicated that dissatisfaction in military ranks increased sharply after a controversial television programme on Wednesday about the military's role in human rights abuses under the military government.

The programme, produced without government approval by the presidential commission investigating more than 8,800 disappearances, showed relatives of people kidnapped by military forces telling their version of the abductions.

During the programme a small bomb was thrown at the television station which carried the broadcast, and unidentified men fired shots at the navy mechanics school in Buenos Aires, reputed to have been the site of a secret torture centre from 1976 to 1979.

President Alfonsin and leading Cabinet Ministers were shown the programme for the first time on Wednesday morning, and several ministers reportedly suggested cancelling the broadcast for fear of increasing tension.

Instead, several scenes including a reconstruction of a military kidnapping, were reportedly cut from the programme at the last minute. These events came at the moment when the Government has begun to implement controversial austerity measures to combat inflation and clear the way for financial help from the country's foreign creditors.

8 British soldiers face drugs charges

Bonn - Eight young British soldiers serving with the 14/20 King's Hussars at Hohnau are to face a court martial next week charged with offences involving unlawful possession of cannabis, cannabis resin and LSD (our Correspondent writes).

They were named as: Lance Corporals Brian Kirby, Anthony Parkinson and Steven Kershaw, and Troopers Duncan Everett, Colin Bickerton, Thomas Headon, Steven Buchanan and David Hobson.

Mine disaster

Taipei (AFP) - Seventy three bodies have been dug out of a coal mine which caved in after a gas explosion on June 20. It was the worst mine disaster in Taiwan's history, police said. One survivor died in hospital, bringing the toll to 74.

Boston fire toll

Boston (Reuters) - Fourteen people died and 12 others were injured in a fire that destroyed a suburban boarding house. Three of the injured were critically ill.

Flights hit

Paris (AP) - Only 15 per cent of flights by Air Inter, the French domestic airline, operated because of a 24-hour strike by air crew over pay and training.

Refuge granted

Paris (AFP) - The Foreign Ministry confirmed that France has agreed to give asylum to 25 Iranian refugees, who arrived here from Baghdad. All are believed to have fled to Iraq for political reasons.

Timor aid ban

Canberra (AFP) - Indonesia is refusing to allow the International Red Cross to carry out a relief programme in East Timor, the Australian Council for Overseas Aid said. "The Red Cross has been banned from delivering food and medical aid to the people in need".

Emergency ends

Plymouth, Montserrat (Reuters) - A week-long state of emergency on Montserrat was lifted on Tuesday after striking public employees who had disrupted power and water supplies returned to work.

Eight arrests

Montreal (AFP) - Eight members of Greenpeace were arrested as they tried to block pipes discharging toxic waste from a factory into the St Lawrence River. A Greenpeace spokesman claimed that they stopped the discharge for some time.

Soldiers to die

Kampala (AP) - Four Ugandan soldiers have been sentenced to death for the murder and robbery of a Kampala businessman and the rape of his daughters, the newspaper *Munro* reported.

Fake Picasso

Paris (AFP) - A West German millionaire paper manufacturer, Herr Helmut Kraft, who purchased Picasso and Rodin bronzes from a French art gallery was told by a Paris Court yesterday that they are all worthless. He paid "several million francs" for the bronzes, and a Paris dealer has been charged with counterfeiting artistic works.

Salan honoured

Paris (AP) - Full military honours were rendered at the funeral of General Raoul Salan, leader of the 1961 Algiers revolt against de Gaulle and of the terrorist Secret Army Organization (OAS).

Drivers rest

Madrid - Drivers of buses and lorries on Spanish roads will not be allowed to drive for more than four hours without a break in a measure designed to bring Spain into line with the European Community.

Fatal sprint

Chicago (AP) - Two lawyers who had "just a friendly argument" about the Olympics tried to settle it by racing down a hallway at their law firm. One who had poor eyesight crashed through a 39th-floor window and plunged to his death.



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Fear of Sakharov rescue mission

Reagan warns off Jackson

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan has cast doubt on the legality of the Rev Jesse Jackson's mission to Cuba and cautioned him not to attempt to go to Moscow to seek the release of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident Soviet nuclear physicist.

Mr Jackson, the black Democratic presidential candidate, spoke about a possible mission to Moscow after returning last month from Cuba, where he persuaded President Castro to release 22 American prisoners and 26 Cuban political detainees.

President Reagan said on television on Wednesday: "I do believe that to intervene in this very delicate matter of Sakharov ignores things that might be going on in the quiet diplomatic channels that we have going forward".

He said that he was delighted with Mr Jackson's success in Cuba but added that the civil rights leader should be aware of the Logan Act, which forbids unauthorized diplomatic negotiations by private United States citizens with foreign governments.

When asked if Mr Jackson would be prosecuted for allegedly violating the Logan Act, the President replied: "No, we're not going to take legal action".

Mr Jackson later said that President Reagan had no evidence to support his assertion that his trip to Cuba and Central America might

have violated US law. He had contacted the State Department before the six-day trip and had simply made a "moral appeal" to President Castro to free the prisoners. He has maintained that he did not carry out "negotiations".

State Department officials last week indicated that Mr Jackson had not violated the Logan Act.

Dr Sakharov's step-daughter on Wednesday dissociated herself from President Reagan's warning to Mr Jackson.

"Whoever is working in this direction could not hurt our parents' cause. The intentions of Mr Jackson could not endanger the efforts the American administration is undertaking, right now," to get Dr Sakharov released, said Tanya Yankelovich.

President Reagan, in a fourth of July independence day message, renewed his strong criticism of the Soviet Union and other Communist countries.

"We still stand for freedom throughout the world, which is why immigrants still come to us."

State Department officials

Flight of fancy: The futuristic Voyager aircraft on test in California. Its pilots plan a non-stop world flight.

Black states review self-sufficiency drive

From Michael Hornsby, Gaborone, Botswana

Nine black states in southern Africa hold their annual summit here today to review progress towards their goal of promoting regional cooperation and reducing dependence on South Africa.

It is the fifth summit since the Southern African Development Conference was founded in 1980, and the first since South Africa, earlier this year, signed security agreements with two of SADC's most important members, Angola and Mozambique.

The agreement between Pretoria and Maputo, which looks beyond security matters to closer economic ties, has been widely depicted as undermining

the rationale on which SADC has been based. Other members have expressed an uneasy understanding, rather than approval, of Mozambique's position.

Spokesmen for the organization insisted yesterday that the South Africa-Mozambique agreement, known as the Nkomati accord, would not be on the summit agenda, arguing that it had not changed SADC's basic aim of coordinating development and lessening dependence on the outside world generally.

"Nkomati or no Nkomati, SADC must go on", said Mr Peter Mmusi, the vice-president of Botswana, whose president, Dr Quett Masire, will chair the summit. The other members of

the organization are: Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

All but three of the member states will be represented at the summit by heads of state or government. President Banda of Malawi excused himself on the ground that the summit clashed with his country's national day, while Chief Leabua Jonathan of Lesotho and President Dos Santos of Angola stayed away for reasons that are not known.

The visitors, who began arriving at Gaborone's small, heavily-guarded airport at noon yesterday, were to be entertained by President Masire at a banquet at State House. They will attend an opening ceremony in the national stadium this morning and then meet to

approve an annual progress report.

Mr Oliver Tambo, president of the banned African National Congress and Mr John Poku, leader of the Pan Africanist Congress, which broke away from the ANC in 1959, have been invited to the summit as observers.

The ANC leader has been one of the chief victims of the Nkomati accord and a similar agreement signed two years ago by South Africa and Swaziland and only recently revealed. Under the agreements, the ANC bases in Mozambique and Swaziland have been closed, posing a threat to its guerrilla activities in South Africa.

Remaining refugees leave West German mission as row breaks over talks

The last six East Germans have left the West German Mission in East Berlin, clearing the way for a resumption of emigration by East Germans to the West. Herr Ludwig Rehlinger, State Secretary in the Ministry of Inner-German Relations, announced yesterday.

All 55 people who sought refuge in the mission as a way of forcing the authorities to allow them to emigrate, have now gone and the immediate crisis has been defused.

However, officials in the Chancellor's Office have expressed anger and dismay at Wednesday's disclosure by Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Prime Minister, that West German banks are preparing a new loan of DM 950m for East Germany. The leak is seen as endangering sensitive negotiations on human rights concessions by East Germany and the proposed visit here in September by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader.

Herr Strauss broke the Bonn silence over the talks that had accompanied an attempt to defuse the crisis over the presence of the East Germans in the Mission. He said Bonn had asked the Deutsche Bank, the country's largest, to head a consortium to grant fresh credit without Federal guarantees, to East Germany.

Herr Strauss said he had not been involved, although he had held talks with the East German negotiator and emphasized Bonn's expectations, which included a swift dismantling of the remaining automatic firing devices along the border. Last July Herr Strauss surprised his supporters by taking the initiative in arranging DM 1000m credit granted by Bavarian banks to East Berlin.

His confirmation, only hours after the government spokes-

From Michael Banyon, Bonn

man, Herr Peter Boenisch, refused to give details of the talks, but substance to speculation that East Germany is prepared in return to allow a further 5,000 people to join the 25,000 who have emigrated to the West this year.

It is also said to be ready to cut the DM 25 minimum sum western visitors are obliged to exchange each day and to lower the 60-year-old age limit for women travelling to the west. It is 65 for men.

Bonn has been severely embarrassed by the leaks as the package has apparently not been wrapped up. It wanted no obstacles to the Honecker visit and wanted to avoid the public dispute over the new credit which has now broken out.

The negotiations coincided with urgent consultations between Herr Rehlinger and Herr Wolfgang Vogel, the East German lawyer empowered by Herr Honecker to negotiate on humanitarian issues, on how the crisis at the mission could be ended.



Herr Strauss: Broke silence over talks.

A group of 25 left the mission last week and a further 29 earlier this week, including "problem cases" of an army and navy officer and an official with access to state secrets, who were allowed to leave with immunity from prosecution. The six who remained included two children. The press here said yesterday Bonn had paid DM 100,000 for each of the refugees and DM 500,000 for the three "problem cases" who would otherwise have faced severe punishment.

As part of the deal, Bonn has agreed to restrict access to its mission. It is to add a shower and lavatory to the visitors' room, but will allow only up to 20 people in a time. Visitors must, in future, come individually, and without luggage. The mission remains closed indefinitely and it is conducting business with East German inquirers by post or telephone.

East Germany has been induced to make concessions by its acute shortage of western currency. Herr Honecker is also known to be keen to make his visit here, but he has been cautious about this recently, citing bad East-West relations as a difficulty. He is thought to be under pressure not to make the visit. In turn Bonn has refused to give definite times and dates for the visit, which would be the East German leader's first to the Federal Republic.

Miss Liberty loses her torch



Lighting the way: The Statue of Liberty (above) as millions of immigrants and tourists remember it. Yesterday (left) a crane removed the torch as part of a facelift. It will be replaced by a beacon.

More attacks threatened

Portuguese terror group admits blast

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

The Portuguese terrorist group FP25 have claimed responsibility for planting a bomb that damaged the home of Senhor Manuel da Silva Liquito, proprietor of a tile factory near Aveiro, and for a gun attack on the headquarters of the National Republican Guard of Bascos.

Members of FP25, who held a meeting last week with three Lisbon journalists at a crowded beach near Lisbon said their organization had not been seriously hurt by the round-up of suspected members of their organization and said they would strike again soon. The police, however, have not admitted that Wednesday's attacks were really perpetrated by FP25.

During the past four years the FP25 has claimed responsibility for, or has been blamed for, the killing of 12 people: industrialists, National Republican Guardsmen and policemen and bystanders killed during bank robberies.

FP25 made its first appearance on April 20 this year when

it set off 110 small bombs around the country which exploded and released political pamphlets with radical leftist manifestos saying FP25 represented "all the exploited workers who fought for April 25 revolution in 1974". It said members of the old fascist regime were returning to power and called on the workers to respond to this with revolution.

In contacts with the Portuguese national news agency ANOP and Lisbon newspapers, FP25 has claimed connections with the Basque terrorist organization ETA, with the Provisional IRA and with the Italian Prima Linea and the Red Brigades.

In 1980 some Portuguese authorities said they believed FP25 was being financed by the Libyans, but they had no proof. This week, the Lisbon weekly newspaper *Tempo* printed a front page article claiming to have information that members of Portugal's radical left organizations were being trained in terrorist tactics by the South Yemenis.

Chemical weapons plea

Geneva: Switzerland proposed at the 40-nation United Nations disarmament conference, that all governments enter into a solemn engagement, through the United Nations, to renounce use of chemical weapons (Alan McGregor writes).

Mr Edouard Brunner, Secretary of State at the Swiss Foreign Ministry, said that this would help counter the fact that many nations had not ratified the 1925 Geneva protocol banning chemical and bacteriological weapons.

The gas people—investing in tomorrow's world today

Gas is today's most popular fuel in British homes—and a powerful and growing force in industry, too.

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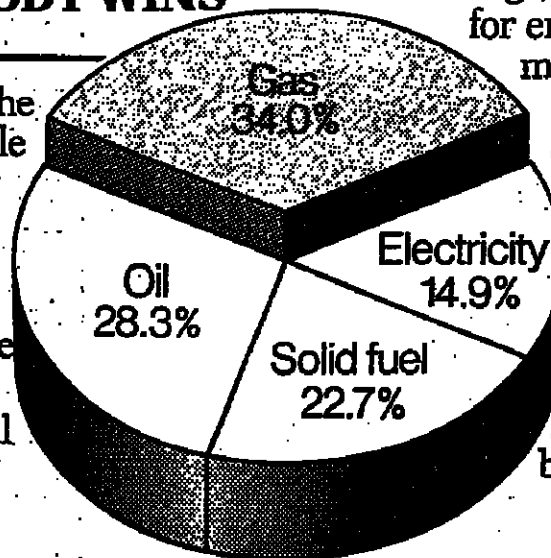
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According to provisional Government figures for UK energy consumption in 1983 gas increased its share of the industrial market, even though industrial gas consumption fell by 0.3 per cent.

But industry still spent over £1,300 million on gas.

So it is good news, for our customers, and industry's, that businessmen are making more efficient use of gas—spurred on by the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency Office.

In industry and commerce, the emphasis today is on the more efficient use of fuel and power for greater profit.

The gas people are at the forefront of this trend, through their multi-million pound R and D programme and the technical consultancy services they provide to industrial and commercial customers.

New developments in the more efficient use of gas not only provide obvious benefits in the form of fuel costs savings, but also bring increased opportunities for employment—by making British industry more efficient.

They provide export opportunities and much business in home markets for those companies which are collaborating with British Gas in the development and introduction of the new technologies.

So investment by the gas people on behalf of their customers is paying off in a whole variety of ways—to the nation's benefit.

The unofficial partner within the EEC

From Ian Murray, Brussels

On the day the Treaty of Rome was signed, a separate protocol was agreed covering relations with East Germany. It virtually made East Germany an unofficial member of the new European community from the beginning.

It said: "Since trade between the German territories... is a part of German internal trade, the application of this treaty in Germany requires no change". In other words, no duties, levies or border formalities were required on the border.

In consequence, West Germany has been left very much on its own to police trade through the border. The only rule of thumb applied is that exports and imports must balance.

Although that arrangement has caused resentment among other countries from time to time it is seen as far too political an issue to be raised. West Germany pretends the border does not exist for trade

purposes and other countries reluctantly turn a blind eye. One difference in relations shows in the way West Germany reacts when East Germany dumps goods on the market. It opens legal proceedings for unfair competition, whereas other countries in the community use the EEC's anti-dumping procedures. A commission official said: "The eastern block does a good deal of dumping, but East Germany is the star performer".

Figures show that West Germany is scrupulous in making sure it has balanced trade with East Germany. Last year it sold £1,818m of goods across the border and imported £1,836m.

East Germany has a positive balance of trade with the rest of the Community, selling £850m of goods to the other nine member states last year and buying £475m worth from them.

Eviction plan troubles the Queen

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

The Queen has expressed her concern over the South African Government's plan to forcibly remove a black community from its land at Kwa Ngema, 120 miles south-east of Johannesburg.

Leaders of the community sent a telegram to the Queen last month appealing to her to "help us with all speed in any way you can". The land at Kwa Ngema was given to their tribal ancestors by King Edward VII in 1904.

Mr Euan Ferguson, the British Ambassador in South Africa, has told the community that the Queen was concerned to hear of the difficulties it faced and hoped they could be satisfactorily resolved. Mrs Margaret Thatcher had also raised the issue with Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister.

Caribbean talks open amid tension

Nassau, Bahamas (Reuters)

English-speaking Caribbean countries began talks yesterday on ways of overcoming the region's economic recession and improving relations which have been strained by the invasion of Grenada and the imposition of protectionist measures on each other.

The fifth summit of the 13-member Caribbean community (Caricom) opened with the Bahamas Prime Minister Lynden Pindling warning his colleagues that Caricom "must not be a mere facade under which we sweep vital issues of great moment under the carpet".

Mr Pindling said the 18-month recession in the region has led Caribbean nations to impose protectionist measures against each other and he hoped the summit turned out to be "the place where leaders construct a viable and lasting strategy for restoring trade".

Poll win for Guatemala moderates pleases army

From John Carlin, Guatemala City

Guatemala's political moderates have come out the winners in the well-ordered national elections for a constituent assembly, much to the satisfaction of the military government.

After a painfully slow count it has emerged that the party expected to do best, the extreme right-wing National Liberation Movement, has been pushed into third place behind two parties which, by Guatemalan standards, may safely be called centrist.

The Christian Democrat party and the centre-right Union of the National Centre (UCN) came first and second. Final results from the poll on Sunday are expected to show the Christian Democrats with 20, 25 seats and the UCN with 20, 25 seats out of the assembly's total of 88 seats.

The Christian Democrat leader Señor Vinicio Cerezo, is known as an outspoken critic of the army, which has raised fears that General Oscar Mejia Victores's Government, which seized power in a coup last August, might stop in and dissolve the Assembly.

But Mr Cerezo has told reporters this week that he means to treat the army with extreme discretion and will be careful not to inflame General Mejia in the year before scheduled presidential elections. General Mejia is apparently eager to improve his country's international image in order to obtain increased foreign aid, in particular military aid.

At a news conference he said that he offered a "total guarantee" that the army did not have "a political mission".



Britain's got a wonderfuel future!



HOW THE MINERS ON STRIKE HAVE BEEN MISLED...

3. ABOUT THEIR FUTURE.

The sad thing is that this strike is totally unnecessary.

To get them out on strike, our miners have been deliberately misled by their leaders.

They have been told their industry is under threat.

That is not what the facts show.

Investment

For the last five years, the Government has been investing an average of £2 million a day in the future of the industry.

That's more than is being invested in coal by the rest of the countries in the EEC put together!

Wages

Average wage earnings for face workers will be almost £186 a week when the present offer has been accepted. That's 28 per cent higher than the average earnings in the manufacturing industry – and it will keep the miners top of the earnings league for industrial workers.

Redundancies

Over the past three years, not a single miner has been forced into redundancy who didn't want to go.

Current redundancy terms are the most generous in Western Europe. They offer lump sums of up to £35,000.

This year, 20,000 redundancies have

been asked for. There is every reason to believe that, like last year, they will all be voluntary. Not a single miner is "being thrown on the scrap-heap". Not a single miner who wants to stay in the industry is being asked to go.

Closures

The Coal Board has asked for four million tonnes of our most expensive coal – coal that no-one is buying – to be taken out of production.

This is exactly in line with the 1974 Plan for Coal, agreed between the Coal Board, the mining unions and the Government. The Final Tri-partite Report on the Plan for Coal said in paragraph 27: "inevitably some pits will have to close as their useful economic reserves of coal are depleted".

Plan for Coal also envisaged that between three and four million tonnes of capacity would be closed each year through exhaustion and exceptional mining difficulties.

Yet an average of only about half that amount has been closed since then. Just 12 per cent of our production is directly costing more than £275 million a year to support.

By closing our most expensive pits, we can get the average price of our coal down. And, by doing so, get the sales of our coal

up – for the first time in many years.

This is what the Coal Board wants to do.

Heavy investment means that we are building 42 million tonnes of new capacity. Coal that can be produced at costs low enough to find customers.

How can we operate this new capacity when we still have pits working in which coal is being produced at around £90 a tonne?

How can that be justified?

Yet that is what this strike is about.

The strike is costing millions of pounds – which will push the price of coal up, making it even harder to sell.

It is frightening away new customers.

And, if it continues much longer, the strike is threatening up to 30 good pits with closure for ever.

This strike – not the Coal Board – could butcher the industry.

That's why it is so important that this strike ends soon.

It was called by the miners' leaders. It now needs to be called off by the miners themselves.

NCB
One in a series issued
by the National Coal Board.

National Film

[illegible]



MY ACCOUNTANT INSISTS I CHANGE MY CAR EVERY YEAR.

Sooner or later, even the owner of a BMW 5 Series finds a reason to change his car.

But four times out of five, he takes the precaution of ordering another BMW first.

It seems that once a driver is aware of the lasting values of the BMW 5 Series, he becomes reluctant to exchange them for the superficial attractions of lesser cars.

For whilst it's the BMW's performance that normally excites comment, the whole car stands out as being in a different class for the quality of its construction—not just fit and

finish but the choice and quality of materials. (What Car?)

The interior one may add (and they did) is a masterpiece of clarity and functional design.

Not a bewildering clutter of knobs, dials and gimmicks.

It's reassuring to learn too that every BMW 5 Series is built on the same lines as the £25,000 BMW 635 CSI. By the same people and with the same care.

And that even after a car has been completely checked and approved, it may still

face a 7000 test 'Audit' which makes a fine tooth comb look like a rake.

Further, although the laws of physics state that their in-line six-cylinder engine is perfectly balanced, BMW's rules insist that each one is subjected to 150,000 electronic listening tests.

Of course, there would be little point in such perfectionism if the end result was a boring car. It isn't.

Otherwise, Motor's Managing Director would hardly have been moved to sum up, after a 53,000 mile test drive in a BMW 528i: 'I have not

had so much enjoyment from any other car in 25 years of motoring.

And it speaks volumes for its quality that I derive just as much pleasure from it now as I have ever done.'

However, don't imagine that BMW are satisfied. On the contrary, they'd like to know why only four out of five BMW owners buy another.

Why not five?



THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

FRIDAY PAGE

As more marriages break up, a new conciliation service is helping to keep the peace.

Divorce with dignity

HOW IT WORKED FOR THREE COUPLES

- **Case 1: The ex-wife** complained that her husband kept driving past her house and, in doing so, drove her mad. The ex-husband's complaint was that his wife was never friendly when he came to collect the three children. They were both persuaded by their solicitors to seek mediation and, for the first time in years, actually spoke to each other. During the sessions, each admitted to irrational behaviour which was also damaging to the children. Each admitted using the children to spy on the other because to laugh at their own behaviour.
- **Case 2: The ex-wife**, who had suffered a stormy marriage as well as many beatings from her husband, did not want him to have access to their small daughter. She said he had not accepted that the marriage was at an end and that she was frightened he might be violent. He denied any such intentions and insisted he desperately wanted to see the child. The solicitor that was asked to allow him to see his child at her playground, where he had no opportunity to inflict violence on her or cause any other trouble.
- **Case 3: The father** had moved out. The couple were no longer on speaking terms, and went to the conciliation service through their solicitors. Eventually, they drew up a detailed agreement which covered finances, access and custody. The parties arrived in great distress, and writing the agreement brought home to them the reality of their situation, which they had not been able to face before. The agreement was not legally binding in any way, but the conciliators knew the solicitors would respect it.

"One of the biggest hurdles has been to persuade both partners to be together in the same room as many say they can no longer stand the sight of each other."

"And sometimes, only one partner actually wants to divorce, and the other keeps insisting that the marriage is not over. Here, we have to help them see eye to eye."

"We cannot be successful in every case and send all divorcing couples on their way the best of friends. But we can usually achieve a better and more amicable arrangement over children, and avoid money being spent on endless litigation."

Mediators are not trying to take business away from solicitors, but instead work closely with them, as well as probation and welfare services. Clients can come direct, or be referred by lawyers or the local Citizens' Advice Bureau. If they can't pay, they can obtain a "green form" from their solicitor, which entitles them to free advice sessions.

As yet, conciliation schemes have no government funding but Lord Hailsham the Lord Chancellor has recently set up a three-year, £200,000 study to look at what the services can provide.

"We are something of a hybrid between counselling and the law," explained Margaret Oddie. "Our main task is to ease family conflict but as we still go to law, we have yet to prove our worth."

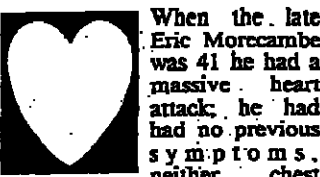
Successful conciliation schemes can save a great deal of money, as they can forestall litigation but, just as importantly, they work to reduce the negativity that couples come to feel towards each other.

Liz Hodgkinson

For further information: The National Family Conciliation Council, 155 High Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1AD. Richmond Mediation in Dorking: 51 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1YQ. 01-940 8066. 24-hour service: 01-940-6235.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Getting to the heart of the matter



When the late Eric Morecambe was 41 he had a massive heart attack; he had no previous symptoms.

neither chest pain nor tightness, no breathlessness, no sweating, no even excessively tired. Until he noticed intermittent niggling chest pains and felt unwell during a performance he had no warning of impending trouble. When the show was over he left at once and, while driving home, developed the characteristic signs and symptoms of a coronary.

The story of a coronary thrombosis striking without prior indication is common enough. Perhaps with the memory of his own first attack, Morecambe had agreed to open the new Victoria Tompkins Research Wing at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, and to publicize the appeal needed to pay for the instigation of a research project to investigate and treat people who have asymptomatic heart disease.

Eric Morecambe's wife, Joan, who had always encouraged him in his professional and charitable work and supported him in his defiance of heart disease, deputized for him last week; she has volunteered to



Eric and Joan Morecambe: Now others will benefit

help St Mary's Hospital in any way within her power.

The research workers intend to study the possibility of taking "early detection teams" to the public to find those at risk, just as mobile mass X-ray units were used in the 1940s and 1950s to investigate chest disease.

Simultaneously, they are working to find a non-invasive, and thus safe, method of assessing the state of coronary arteries. The very small risk of complications in coronary angiography, the X-ray of the arteries, makes it an unacceptable method for patients with neither signs nor symptoms. Once definite coronary arterial disease has been diagnosed they will search for a treatment capable of being made more widely available than can ever be possible by bypass surgery.

Detecting those in high risk groups promises to be the easiest part of the exercise. To make a definite diagnosis of heart disease in the asymptomatic is more difficult but, at the moment, is working on precordial mapping of the coronary blood supply by computer image intensification.

Finally, research has started in the application of lasers to clear blocked vessels. Dr Peter Kidner, a cardiologist at the hospital, stresses that it is a long-term research project.

Joan Morecambe said her husband's risk factors were related to his character and his smoking (40 a day before his first coronary) not his eating habits (he always had a preference for a low-fat, high fibre diet); his cholesterol was normal before his attack.

Earlier this year Morecambe started to have attacks of a fast heart beat. Three weeks before his final attack he suffered episodes of breathlessness for the first time. Sleep became difficult and he developed gastro-intestinal symptoms; after some mild treatment for congestive cardiac failure he felt so much better that he insisted on fulfilling his commitment to act in the charity performance at Tewkesbury where he had his final attack.

Contributions for this research project can be sent to St Mary's Coronary Flow Trust, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2.

Keeping track of the gender benders

Nobody would challenge the sex of the fawn-like Zola Budd, or the American middle-distance runner Mary Decker, but in some women athletes the decision as to whether they are male or female is more difficult.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation has opted for a chromosome test to determine sex.

Cells from inside the mouth, a buccal smear, or from the cells around the hair root are examined microscopically. If the chromosomes in the sex determining pair are XX the runner is a woman, if XY a man. Physical and physiological characteristics, biological and emotional behaviour patterns, let alone appearance, are not taken into account.

Blood and urine hormone levels are measured only to exclude hormone doping. Other chromosome combinations occur but the authorities are adamant - a line has to be drawn.

Unexpected results can occur:



Mary Decker: feminine

the Pole, Ewa Klobkowska, who had already won a gold medal, was discovered in 1967 to have an aberrant chromosomal pattern and, therefore, in the eyes of the officials was no longer a woman. The ruling did not deter her husband - Ewa retired from running to have a baby. Most women lose their

normal menstrual cycle while training; doctors cannot decide whether this is due to loss of body weight, or is a direct effect of either exercise or nervous tension on the functioning of the pituitary gland, which produces many of the reproductive system hormones.

Recently Dr Susan Brookes, from the University of Colorado, wrote to *The Lancet* to report that in the women athletes they have examined body weight loss may not be the only factor. Meat and fat intake may also be important.

The runners she examined who retained their regular periods ate five times more meat than vegetarians. Although vegetarians compensated for the lack of meat by taking other animal proteins it was found that they were still more likely to lose their cycle.

Dr Brookes suggests that the vegetarian woman athlete could suffer from zinc or iron deficiency, from a lack of hormonal precursors found in meat, or even that a diet rich in phyto-estrogens, chemicals found in some plants, might be responsible.

Unsound remedy



Acute middle ear disease, otitis media, is a frequent complication of minor respiratory infections in children giving rise to earache, a high temperature, sometimes with vomiting, sleeplessness and general misery.

Most of the commonly prescribed, and readily taken, antibiotics are effective in treating the problem, but a recent paper in the *British Medical Journal* written by R. B. Mills, of King's College Hospital, suggests that, despite this, well over a third of doctors prescribe penicillin V, phenoxymethylpenicillin, which is poorly absorbed from the stomach, penetrates the middle ear inadequately and in any case has little effect on the organisms which usually infect the middle ear.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

High noon for the summer racoon

Bailey Morris joins the annual escape from the heat of America's cities

Heat and children were the reason we began our summer odyssey to Sherwood Forest near the colonial city of Annapolis. Thousands of Americans desert their city abodes, fighting jammed motorways and enduring Texas-size mosquitoes to get to "the summer place".

Every June or July when the mercury begins to soar into the nineties we overload a caravan of cars with children, spoking equipment, household goods, electronic gear, dogs, the odd granny and head for Maryland and the River Severn. We will not move back until September.

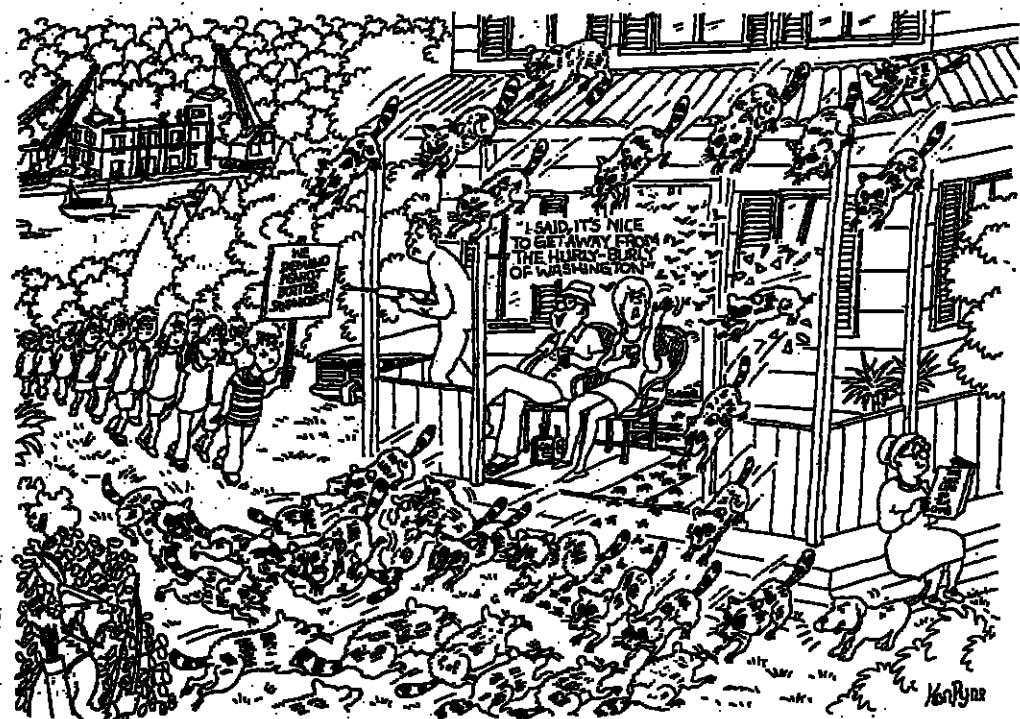
Similar pilgrimages take place along the eastern coast of the United States. Bostonians and New Yorkers head north to the Isles of Maine, the Massachusetts cape, the mountains of Connecticut, Middle Atlantic folk like ourselves settle outside cities in the Pennsylvania mountains or on the Virginia and Delaware shores.

In the south, where the climate is even more tropical and the bugs bigger, water retreats - Pamley's Island in South Carolina or the lakeside camps of Montreat, Tennessee - are a must.

Thus the summer holiday becomes three months pain and pleasure. The daily commuting complete with taste drivers and graphic hand gestures is offset by the relief of escape from the air-conditioned isolation of city offices and heat-baked pavements.

One reason for this mass exodus is the American school system which shuts down for three months in early June, leaving bored quarrelsome children in its wake.

Not only is the temperature 10 degrees cooler in the lush



shade of the forest, but the pace of life changes, smoothing to a less frenetic existence. After a hot day in town, nothing relieves the tension better than a good soak in the mercifully clean Severn.

In compiling a list of the plus side of Sherwood Forest, I have jotted down the following: racoon wars, bug episodes, conversations about the sex lives of crabs, cels and cards, a platoon of grubby nine-year-olds, the children's camp, birdsong, Saturday dances, the bike brigade, tennis tournaments, Duffy's Store, family meals, village life, time to read books. There is a minus side as well.

Situated in several hundred acres overlooking the Severn and related estuaries, the forest is made up of green and brown cottages (to blend in with the trees) clustered on hills with probable names such as Robin Hood Hill, Friar Tuck and Maid Marian, where the Morris family lives at cottage

number 634. Linking the hills is the main roadway snaking past a dense wood of poplars, beech trees, oaks, flowering rhododendrons, black walnuts and the like, past tennis courts, an interrupted golf course, the main clubhouse with its wide verandah and white lawn chairs, down to the shoreline of the Severn, where a flotilla of small sailboats flies up and down daily, past the US Naval Academy at Annapolis and out to open water, at the confluence with Chesapeake Bay.

This is a less plastic, less perfect world than life in Washington. Living at number 634 is like living in a treehouse. The two-storey clapboard cottage is wide open, dissected by a central room with fireplace (for cold nights and autumn days), off which are sleeping rooms, a 1950s kitchen (added as an afterthought when the clubhouse dining room complete with waiters from Baltimore was abolished), a bathroom and

an L-shaped, screened verandah which wraps around the cottage. Here, at the top of a rise above the river, we are close to nature, counting 13 different species of birds at our feeder the other day.

In our bathroom innumerable bugs of astonishing size and colour congregate every morning much to the dismay of my daughter who can be heard exclaiming: "Oh, this one is sickly green."

From the verandah, where we eat and off while reading, play ping-pong, and drink gin and tonics before lunch, we see nothing but trees, river, a royal blue yawl which dances on the early morning tide and a new monstrosity across the river which is being built by a concrete magnate from Baltimore.

Every day the children go to the club, where they are taught to sail, play golf and tennis, swim and try their hand at crafts. Parents are preoccupied with

other activities. On a recent weekend, for example, when all lights were out and guests from New York were tucked safely in their beds, the chilling yowls and caterwauling of angry racoons broke out. Faint murmurs of alarm arose from the guest room.

By this time my husband, Wilson, was rocketing out of bed, clad only in his birthday suit with airgun in hand. Bang bang! Then curse words from the verandah, as my mild-mannered husband enlightened us all with the information that those blankety-blank racoons were searching for the soft spot in the screen.

Shrieks from the guest room: "My God, are they coming in? Racoon wars? We are so used to them that they are almost a pleasant diversion from bureaucratic Washington life. New Yorkers simply do not understand."

These are the pleasures of bucolic life. It is an existence close to but slightly less privileged than the original concept of the Sherwood Forest founding fathers. They were a group of wealthy men from Baltimore who decided in 1913 to buy property close to the city and build summer houses. These would be linked to the city by a spur railroad which they later abandoned because it was too expensive.

Indeed, before the Second World War, ladies and gentlemen dressed for dinner and dined communally in the clubhouse, still the scene of duplicate bridge tournaments and Saturday night dances with a good live band from Baltimore every weekend. Those were the days of "standards".

These have definitely slipped in recent years, some would say for the better. It is not unusual today, for example, for a brigade of nine-year-olds, including my son, to march into a home at lunchtime and demand peanut butter sandwiches.

This is life in Sherwood Forest. The minuses I will save for another story.

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Or the gentle, placid Silvia. Power steering. Interior luxury for four people. Four speaker digital multiplex cassette/radio system with seek and scan. High lift hatchback for luggage. Or shopping. Or school satchels.

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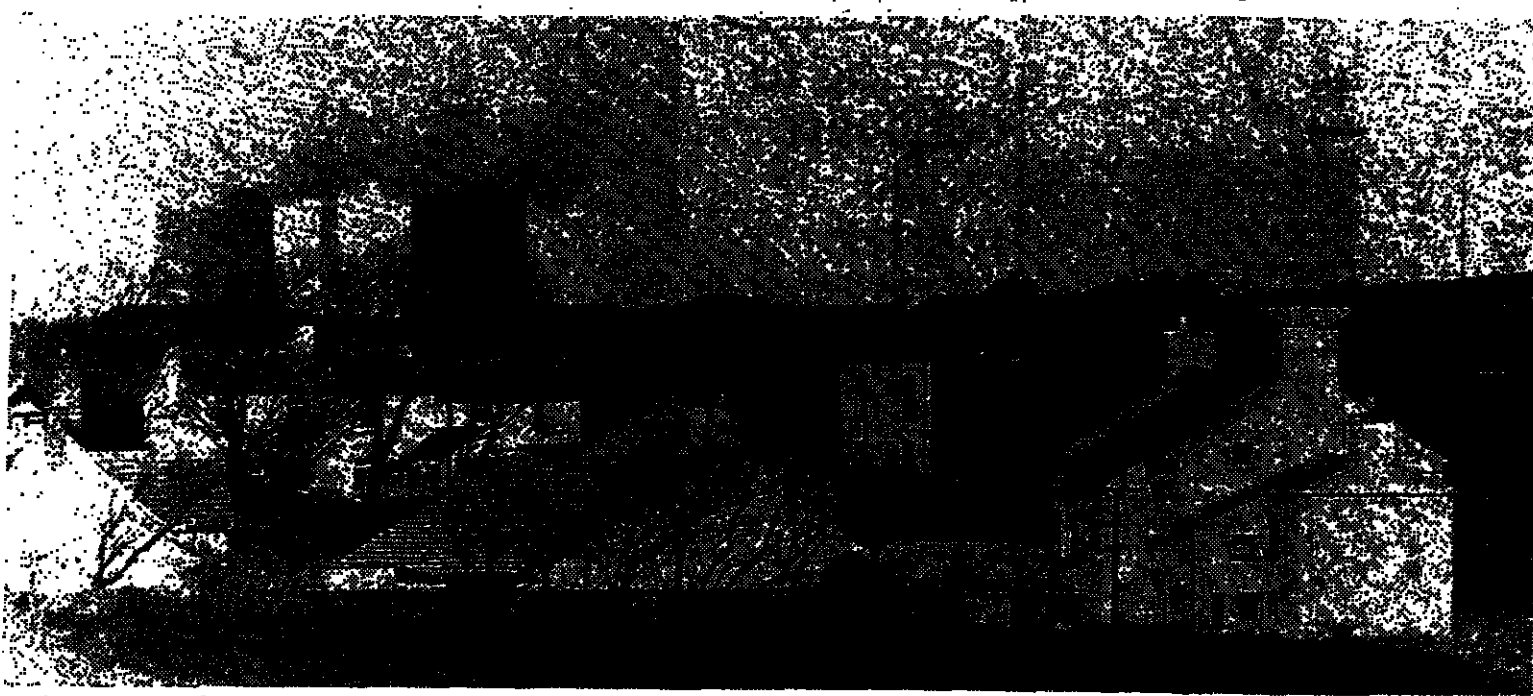
SILVIA TURBO ZX NISSAN

A SPECIAL REPORT

Cumbria



● Ronald Faux writes on the two faces of the county — the flow of trade and prosperity, with tourism, farming and engineering, and the decline in the traditional heavy industries



Industry and the outdoors: the contrast of Cumbria. Above, the town of Seascale near the controversial Sellafield nuclear-power plant, and, right, a boy towers on Napes Needle

The Lakeland hills form more than a natural division across Cumbria. Eastwards there is a Swiss-style prosperity partly created by the millions of tourists who pour up the M6 out of the industrial north. The lakes are a lung for them and the market towns of Kendal, Penrith and Keswick with the chief city of Carlisle are well wired into this flow of trade.

Tourism and a healthy service industry have grown in addition to the traditional range of farming, engineering, textiles and transport.

In the west, beyond the grey shadows of the Fells and along the coast, there is another story. Though much has been achieved in encouraging growth of local enterprise, the marks of recession are clear. It is the classic, off-repeated northern story of old industry, principally coal mining and iron and steel manufacture, dying and leaving a community that relied on little else.

Positive side

It has been Cumbria's double misfortune that these two staples were already in retreat before the second World War and that many of the new companies which opened up with the hope they would fill the vacuum left by coal and steel,

themselves fell victim to the last recession. The negative results show in the disused or neglected docks and industrial buildings, in the derelict stretches of land and in the communities where unemployment is deeply entrenched.

But there is much on the positive side with the certainty of major expansion in ship building at Barrow in Furness where British Shipbuilders Vickers yard is the country's largest employer. The British Nuclear Fuels plant at Sellafield is pursued by crises and now has the ignominy of prosecution hanging over it, but the works remain a keystone of the local economy, all set for massive and multi-million pound expansion as a reprocessing plant of international importance.

A number of firms specializing in offshore oil and gas installations has sprung up and several established companies have announced expansion programmes which will amount to further investment of several million pounds.

Parts of Workington and Maryport have been designated an enterprise zone but much of West Cumbria already ranks as an assisted area which makes it a seed bed for new industry, but probably more important allows the unimpeded growth of companies already there.

In the south, the Morecambe

Bay gas fields and the gas terminal and construction site at Barrow have given fresh stimulus to the local economy. Industrial life is picking up. Elsewhere the survivors in the textile, clothing and footwear industries report an upturn in orders. Many are sanguine about the future although some complain that West Cumbria is rather isolated. Lakeland is at the same time a blessing and a curse to the business community. It is a powerful attraction to workers and business seeking a new base but the hills do form a physical block between the coastal community and the north-west region.

Steady improvement

Against this it can be argued that the road system has been immeasurably improved. The A66 is now a fast link to the M6 and manufacturers generally agree that distance from the large northern conurbations is not a serious handicap to delivery of goods on time. The development of services at Carlisle airport and accessibility of mail, bus and rail services from the city have both helped relieve any sense of remoteness.

Indeed, Cumbria's relative position in the industrial development league has been steadily improving in spite of a doubling of unemployment in four years.

Compared with the rest of Britain jobs are being lost at a lower rate and vacancies created at a higher rate. The Cumbrian economy is doing manifestly better than the national economy generally, chiefly because of the expansion that has begun at Sellafield and at Barrow and thanks to a healthy improvement in electrical engineering.

The county has also benefited from the trend among nationally spread companies to cut back on their operation in the metropolitan areas of the UK and leave their remoter limbs intact. Cumbria has largely escaped the rationalization carried out elsewhere by such firms as Metal Box, Libbys and Carrs Biscuits.

Mr Paul Fearn, industrial development officer with Cumbria County Council, said that apart from the considerable financial encouragement to industry, Cumbria had other strong cards to play in the competition to attract and expand industry. Principal among them was a skilled and willing workforce with an excellent record of industrial relations, space for expansion, communications that were better than their reputation, a deep water port and countryside nearby that was second to none.

"Although unemployment is rather lower than the national average," he said, "the main thrust of our effort is directed at creating more jobs."

Only in Japan is absenteeism lower

An excellent record of industrial relations and employment practices has been achieved by Cumbrian industry, according to a recent survey for Cumbria County Council.

The survey of employment practices in Cumbria 1983, a research report by Urwick Grown, Cumbria County Council, says that absenteeism is half the national average and only Japan among the major industrial countries has a lower level. Workers remain with their company longer and 39 per cent of the companies surveyed had been strike-free for the last three years, 73 per cent for the last 10 years and 58 per cent reported no strikes in their entire history in Cumbria. The number of days lost through industrial action each year is fewer than one day per employee.

More than 90 per cent of companies rated their flexibility arrangements as "good" or "very good" and almost the same number believed their workforce had constructive attitudes towards meeting company objectives.

A majority had increased productivity in the last three years and 77 per cent of the

companies planned expansion. Four had benefited as a result of closure of other UK plants with production consolidated in Cumbria, 90 per cent of companies recognized trade unions.

Relocated companies listed as positive benefits the overall financial package offered to them; cheap land, the sea for effluent disposal and transport, availability of labour and the natural beauty of Cumbria.

From Silloth in the north to Egremont in the south there are nearly 20 industrial estates in west Cumbria with advanced factories varying in size from 500 to 60,000 square feet. Guidance for new industry considering moving into the area and help for expansion of existing industry is given by the Moss Bay Enterprise Trust (Mober) set up jointly by Allerdale district council, Copeland borough council, BSC industry and Cumbria county council.

Mober reports that in the past 13 months, 40 new businesses have been set up and 70 have received financial or other tangible assistance leading to a total of 950 new jobs.

Lakeland and a literary tradition, the

Popular cruises

Cumbria has two winning qualities that make the county a pre-eminently successful tourist centre. The first is the magnificent scenery contained in 900 square miles of national park, the second a rich literary tradition.

Wordsworth, the leading figure among the Lakeland and writers, had a singular appreciation of the high, rounded fells surrounding his home and their reflection in the mirror of the lakes. He campaigned with determination to conserve the scenery.

To him it was a place where "solid mountains shone bright as the clouds, grain-tinctured, drenched in empyrean light; and in the meadow and the lower grounds was all the sweetness of a common dawn."

Steam vessels

That same appreciation is shared, perhaps less profoundly, by three million visitors each year. According to the Cumbria tourist board they spend 11 million nights in accommodation ranging from camping sites and youth hostels to some of the most exclusive hotels in the land. Many more millions simply visit the district for a day.

In east Cumbria, tourism is

Three million visitors a year

extremely big business and creates a turn-over of some-where between £120m and £130m a year. Keswick alone is rumoured to earn £11m annually from its visitors, a honey-pot that is envied a few miles down the road in Maryport where the Allerdale district council is doing all it can to entice visitors away from the old tourist trails.

It is promoting Maryport in particular because of its fascinating maritime history and strong potential to become a visitor centre for West Cumbria. It was one of the most important Roman naval bases guarding the Solway and supplying the tens of thousands of troops manning Hadrian's Wall.

Recently a collection of elderly steam vessels berthed in the corner of the Elizabeth dock, among them a slim-beamed vessel reputed to be the Kaiser's personal yacht. It is hoped these will form the nucleus of a floating maritime museum when they have been continued on facing page

Investing in the county's future

Thames Board at Workington has recently invested £90m in what is claimed to be the most advanced carton board mill in the world. The company, a Unilever subsidiary, will spend a further £4m on the plant next year. It has allowed the launch of a type of board, Carton-Excel, which has found a lucrative hole in the market. More than 600 work at the mill which has a turnover of £43m a year.

Peter Herring, operations director, said that part of the reasons for the expansion at Workington was the excellent industrial relations. "No one should assume they are a soft touch here at Workington but our meeting capacity shows the big leap there has been in productivity. By comparison with other regions relations here have outstandingly improved."

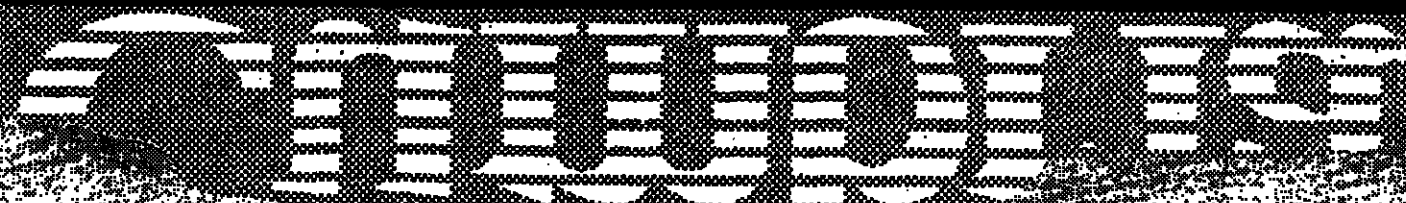
Impressive headway

High productivity and flexible working agreements are hallmarks of the success at Leyland bus assembly plant at Workington which is part of the BL empire. Four vehicles new to the workforce have been introduced in the past three years as other BL plants closed.

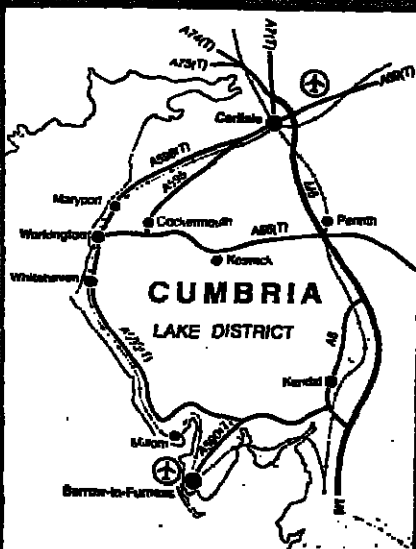
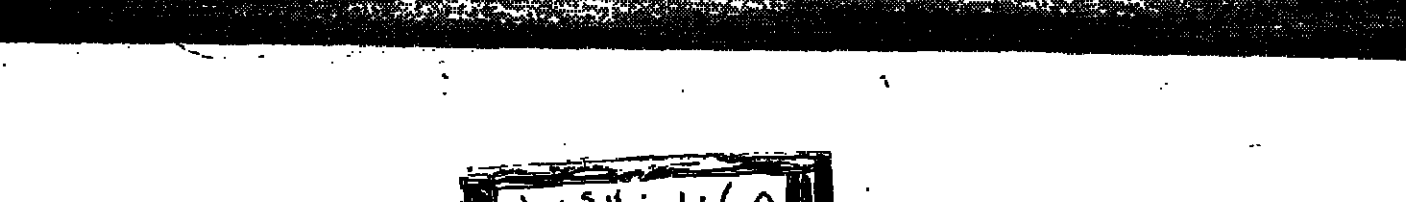
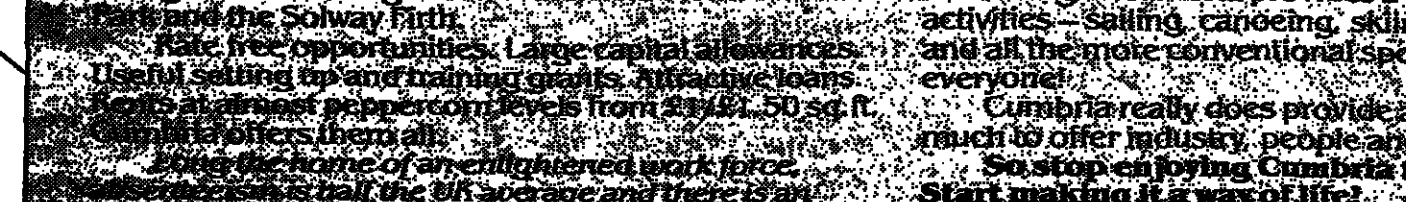
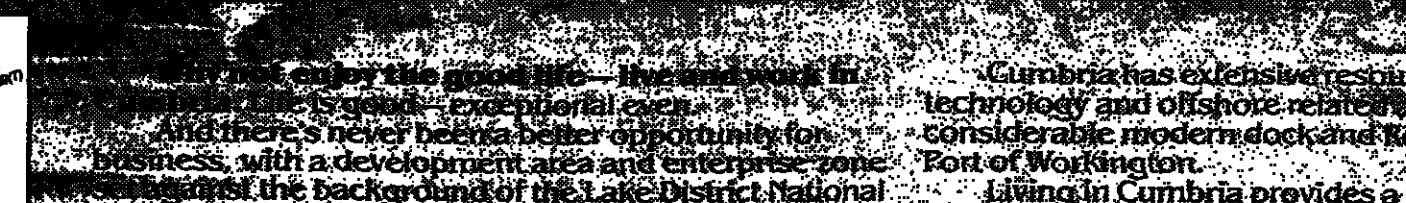
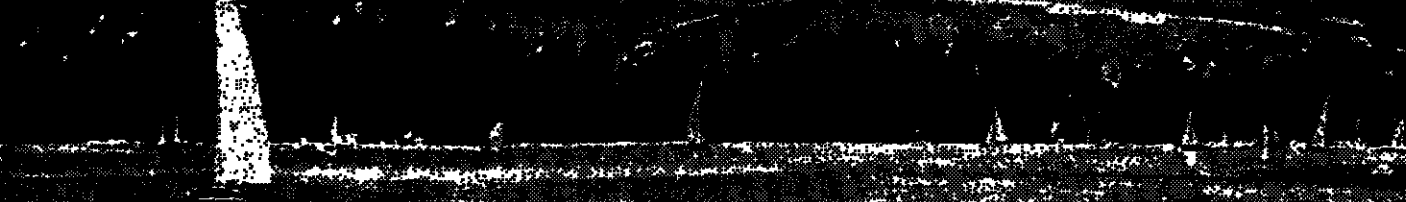
Workington is now the production centre for the Titan double-decker bus and the chassis for the Olympian double-decker. Workington has built the rail bus in cooperation with British Rail engineering and next year expect to begin assembly of some of the Royal Tiger coaches and a new B50 single deck bus chassis.

The plant started 13 years ago as a joint venture agreement with the National Bus company and with the workforce recruited from the contracting coal, steel and shoe manufacturing industries. It has recorded some impressive improvements in its building productivity relative to other parts of BL.

Cumbria



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هكنا من الفضل

two great draws for the tourists



Wordsworth's Dove Cottage

restored by two steam ship enthusiasts, the brothers Treloar from Hexham. They have a daunting job ahead of them in refurbishing the vessels which rise and fall with the tide from the Maryport mud.

The pressure of feet on the more popular mountains have worn deep grooves in places. Tourist centres around Windermere, Ambleside and Grasmere become crowded at holiday time in a way that would have horrified poor Wordsworth.

The poet has become the centre of a considerable industry at Grasmere. Dove Cottage, the small house where he lived is now a literary shrine guarded by trustees. A library contains many of his original manuscripts and is a focus for literary scholars.

The nearby museum has a fine collection of Wordsworth memorabilia. Exhibitions there are regularly devoted to the Lake District poets and writers

who were Wordsworth's contemporaries. The National Gallery cooperates with these exhibitions by providing appropriate portraits.

A Wordsworth winter school and the long-established summer conference are organised by Richard Wordsworth, a member of the family and a devotee of his ancestor's writing, who lives in the village. Another relative shows visitors round another of Wordsworth's homes, Rydal Mount, which is a finely situated country house a short distance from Grasmere.

Younger audiences are more attracted to another lakeland literary figure who lived near Hawkshead - Beatrix Potter. Her home is now a popular tourist centre where children can see the garden and countryside that was the inspiration for a lot of her famous stories.

The writer and poet Ruskin, another of the nineteenth century Lakeland literary set, is also undergoing a renaissance as his home at Brantwood near Coniston is developed as a museum and study centre devoted to his writing.

Other popular tourist destinations in central Lakeland are the cruises on Lake Windermere, Ullswater and Derwent Water. The Grizedale forest visitor centre, run by the Forestry Commission and the nearby theatre in the forest, the Lowther wildlife park near Penrith and the Lake District national park visitor centre at Brockhole near Windermere.

British Sidac, makers of transparent cellulose and polypropylene film for packaging, has this year invested about £7m in its plant at Wigan. Energy savings resulting from the new investment coupled with improved productivity and technical progress give the company renewed confidence as the Wigan plant celebrates 30 years of film manufacturing.

The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of UCB (SA) of Belgium. It has more than 900 workers and is by far the largest employer in the Wigan area.

Expansion in the county is planned by Oxley Developments of Ulverston, an independent company in the specialist use of glass, ceramics and plastics. It is one of the few UK companies able to manufacture dielectric ceramics used in the growing market for micro-miniature passive electronics components.

A 10,000 sq ft extension of the company's ceramics plant at Ulverston is being built. Oxley now employs 200 and has developed around a former country house near Ulverston. It has a broad base of customers mainly in the professional end of the market.



Nuclear issue still explosive

The massive civil engineering contract to build the Thermal Oxide reprocessing plant (Thor) at Sellafield is now under way. The project will take 10 years to complete, increase the Sellafield workforce to 10,000 and the investment in the nuclear plant to £2,000m.

Workers insist that without nuclear industry the place would be desolate and that Sellafield, or Windscale as it was once known, had been the saving force in the region's recovery with equal certainty, argue the opposite.

The Yorkshire TV documentary on the plant which investigated the incidence of radiation-related cancers in the nearby community caused a furore after it was screened. Questions were raised in Parliament, inquiries demanded.

It did not end there. With catastrophic timing, Sellafield scored its most famous own goal. As the Greenpeace protestors were patrolling the coastline and scanning the sea with geigercounters, radioactive material was accidentally discharged down the controversial pipeline into the Irish Sea. The wind drove the discharge onto the beach south of St Rees Head and the headlines rang with stories of radioactive seaweed and poisoned sand.

Prosecution is still pending as a result of that incident. The scientific committee under Professor Black into the number of radiation-related deaths is expected to report next month and altogether the British Nuclear Fuels Sellafield plant is suffering a depressingly bad press.

Few outside a small but vocal minority would want to see Sellafield closed down, but the incident has caused people to question whether they had accepted the familiar landmark too easily.

The popular non-scientific view that Sellafield is that if the people who know most about

nuclear energy are happy to live and work there then it must surely be safe.

What everyone is agreed on is the discharges into the Irish Sea which allow the release of plutonium in however minute quantities must be reduced to as close to nil as humanly achievable. Reaching that goal over the next 10 years will cost an estimated £100m or £200m.

If the Government insists that 10 years is too long to wait and demands a shorter timescale, then the cost could increase to £1,000m, at which point the nuclear industry will demand to know who is to pay the bill and is the huge extra cost seriously justified by the small improvement in safety.

Now that the Sellafield ripples have spread on the tide around Scotland and down as far as the Forth Estuary with suggestions that Sellafield waste has 'come ashore' there, the safety of the industry is again under question.

Difficult time

Scientists say that by this time next year the discharges from Sellafield will have been reduced to 10 per cent of the limit set by the international commission on radiological protection. But nonetheless fears stirred by aggressive investigation remain, even though there has been nuclear industry at Sellafield for 32 years public acceptance demands that discharge levels must be reduced. It is a difficult time for BNFL just as the Sellafield site is being developed so that the lucrative business of washing other people's nuclear laundry can be expanded.

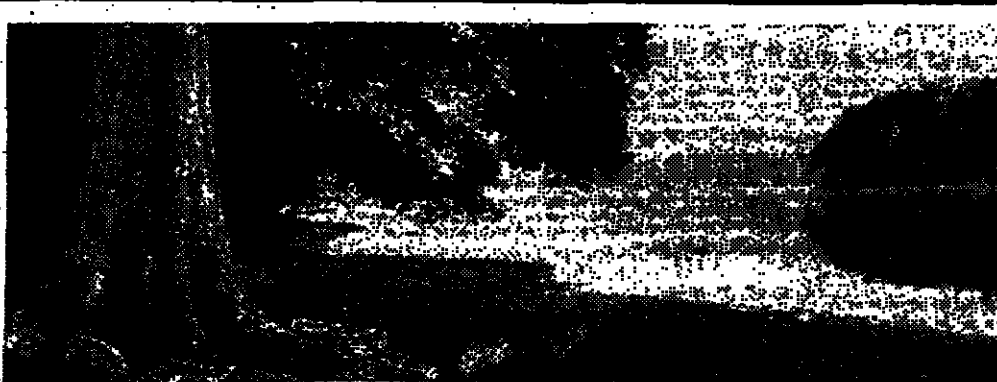
Nuclear industry has been a boon to Cumbria, providing long term industrial stability, apprenticeships for young people and injecting some £100m wages a year into the local economy.

Submarines and warships built at the Vickers yard of British Shipbuilders are at the mainstay of Barrow in Furness - the picture shows a nuclear-powered sub being launched at Barrow. Expansion of the yard includes a £230m covered hall in which four vessels can be constructed at one time. With contracts in hand and the expectation that Barrow will be the construction centre for the trident vessels, the town has a relatively secure future.

With its 12,000 workforce, the shipyard injects some £1.8m a week in the Barrow area. The town is also benefiting as a construction base for the Morecambe Bay gas project.

Scenery and inspiration

Classic Cumbrian scenery - the inspiration of writers, poets and artists from Wordsworth to Ruskin, Coleridge to Arthur Ransome. Left: descent from the celebrated Kirkstone Pass, part of the Lake District's greatly improved road network. Right: natural tree sculpture on the shores of Derwentwater, which Ruskin first explored as a child in the company of his nanny



Investing in Cumbria

British Nuclear Fuels employs over 6000 people at its nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria. Currently there are also over 3000 contractors' personnel at the plant making it one of the largest construction sites in Europe. Most of the annual £100 million wages and salaries bill is spent in Cumbria.

In the next 10 years about \$2.5 billion will be spent on developments at Sellafield, from which local industries will benefit in contracts and jobs. At present materials and services worth some £15 million are purchased each year from companies of all sizes throughout Cumbria.

All this investment ensures a leading role for Sellafield in the future development of nuclear power in this country and throughout the world.



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Over the mountains with ease

The marked improvements in transport services in the north over the last few years have helped west Cumbria enormously. The national motorway network sweeping north from Lancaster around Carlisle, electrification of the west-coast line and the development of services from Carlisle airport mean that companies in deepest Cumbria can now rely on moving goods and personnel without being handicapped by the time factor.

Feeder services

A rail loop from the main line at Carlisle to Workington, Whitehaven and Barrow, rejoins for quick access to Lancaster and Preston. Eastwards services also operate to Newcastle and Leeds. The short branch line from Oxenholme near Kendal leads into the central Lake District.

Carlisle airport lies five miles north-east of the city and is owned and operated by the council. Some £250,000 was spent on re-surfacing the main runway of the former RAF station and with other improvements the airport has attracted commercial and scheduled services.

Air Ecosse are the operators and their airplanes bring Heathrow within 90 minutes away on a twice daily service. There are feeder services to destinations in Scotland and a facility for executive charter flights and for flight training.

There are four operational seaports in the county although only three are generally open to commercial traffic. Silloth, in the north-west, is the smallest, and like Barrow is in the ownership of the British Transport Docks Board.

Workington is the main port of west Cumbria and is able to handle vessels of up to 10,000 tons. It was formerly owned by the British Steel Corporation and used for the import of large quantities of iron ore. It has since been taken over by the Cumbria County Council as steel production wound down and the deepwater pool was threatened with closure.

Chris Taylor formed his one-man bus company in the Lake District 12 years ago and was at first lost for an appropriate name. Nothing worked until his niece, sitting next to him as his bus took Kirkstone Pass at a brisk pace, observed: "We're going up here like a mountain goat".

There is now a fleet of mini-buses making daily excursions across the high Lake District passes carrying the livery of the mountain goat.

On rural roads

Patrick Taylor, general manager of the company and brother of Chris, admitted that their greatest single asset was the company's name. It was exactly right for the job they were doing - eye-catching and memorable.

Though the company has spread into more conventional tour operations, the mini-buses with a green mountain goat painted on the body work grind through gear boxes and brake linings on the steep switchback of Hardnot Pass. The tours are ever popular with a halt at Medio Bogdum, the Roman fortification half way up the 'one-in-three' hill with an impressive view over the Irish Sea.

The company has experimented to discover what services are required and sometimes has had its tyres burned. Scheduled services along the rural roads where public transport fears to roll were soon abandoned. Only one schedule remains and that is the original one over Kirkstone Pass.

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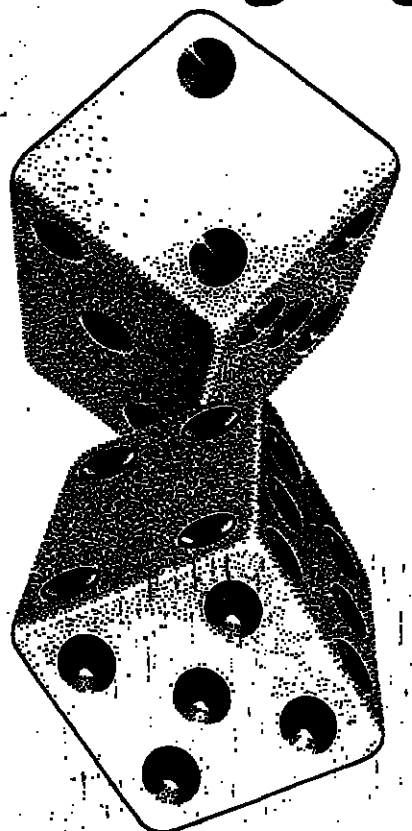
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THE TIMES DIARY

Record breaking

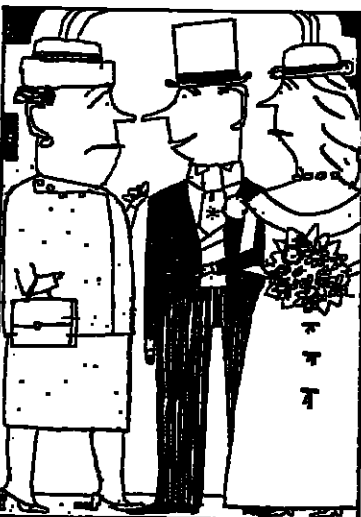
The days of government spoon-feeding to subservient journalists in the parliamentary lobby, through non-attributable briefings, might just be numbered. Elections among lobby journalists are about to be held, and the apparent favourite for chairman is Glyn Mathias of ITN. Secrecy is inevitably prevalent, but Mathias is thought to be prominent among a group of young heretics who want not only more open proceedings, but horror of horrors - daily briefings by Mrs Thatcher's press secretary Bernard Ingham that are on-the-record. Ingham's reaction? "I don't know anything about it and I don't discuss lobby business. Goodbye." Sources close to the Prime Minister are clearly not amused.

Key figure

I've heard of sponsorship, but this is ridiculous. On March 20 next year, according to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's latest programme, Sir Trevor Holdsworth will play the piano in an RPO concert backed by the engineering firm of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds. Sir Trevor is a highly accomplished amateur pianist. He is also chairman of GKN.

Visitors arriving at Stansfeld airport are greeted by a vending machine named the Great Britain. On it hangs an "Out of order" sign.

BARRY FANTONI



"What are you doing next Thursday?"

Making provision

Helped by five filing cabinets of papers and 24 tapes of diaries, Merlyn Rees is to be the next former Cabinet minister to reveal all, or nearly all, about his term of office. Rees, Northern Ireland Secretary from 1974 to 1976, discloses, for example, how his officials had secret meetings with Sinn Féin, but cannot say where or which Provost attended. The security services are now checking the text for indiscretions, and Rees himself left out anything he thought might endanger people's lives. As, however, neither republicans nor loyalists will like what he has to say, it could be his own life that he endangers. Eight years on, Rees still has a couple of clock guards. He won't say how many but remarks, only half in jest, that "when the book comes out they could well be doubled".

Bringing charges

Michael Foot may be furious at the gypsies who have set up camp on Hampstead Heath, but fellow rambles are more concerned about the police. Earlier this week they were seen galloping around on neighbouring horses, firing pistols and brandishing swords. A Scotland Yard spokesman assures me they are not preparing to charge the gypsies. They are practicing for the Metropolitan Police Horse Show later this month, and there's not a line in the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act to stop them.

Dash it all

Four-letter words attributed to Neil Kinnock in a forthcoming biography of the Labour leader seem to worry him more than the fact that it quotes him saying that Scargill is single-handedly destroying the coal industry. He denies that on two occasions he used a certain word and has asked author Robert Harris to substitute the milder expression he says he did use. Publishers Faber have consented.

The Health and Safety Executive has discovered that pigs can make you deaf. The noise of pigs squealing at feeding time can reach 108 decibels - about that of an aircraft at take-off. The decibel count of farmers howling over the EEC milk deal has yet to be recorded.

Going topless

"Something is missing that usually satisfies my aesthetic appetite," writes a correspondent to the *Los Angeles Times* of a bronze sculpture newly erected at the entrance to the Olympic Coliseum. "The something that is missing is a head (two heads to be exact)." Sculptor Robert Graham's headless nude figures have managed to offend half the Olympic city. Umpteenth letters complain of the depiction of sportsmen as brainless hulks. The statue is described as "astuteless", a "monumental faux pas" and a "national disgrace". Part of the trouble seems to be that while the athletes are deprived of heads they are generously endowed elsewhere. One writer suggests the real reason the Russians have boycotted the Games is that they caught sight of Graham's "decapitated lewds".

PHS

The NCB is winning, says David Hart: the advantage should be pressed

Help the miners beat Scargill



Coalfield conflict: working miners at two demonstrations reject the Scargill line. Right, Notts miner Les Carter, his window broken by strikers

June saw a great increase in the scale and scope of the violence in the miners' dispute. Near-riot conditions at Orgreave, at least 80 injured, 94 arrests, NCB employees in Doncaster attacked by a mob of nearly 1,000; policemen thrown to the ground and kicked; a 15-year-old threatened with rape; 16 arrests, 36 injured. Elsewhere, miners wanting to go to work have been beaten up by NUM militants. A lorry driver has brain damage caused by a brick thrown through his windscreen.

In 1975, Arthur Scargill gave an interview to the *New Left Review*, reprinted in *The Times* last week. His tactics in this strike confirm that his calculation has not changed. Sufficient, predominantly young, disaffected workers, by no means all miners, are to be forged into a large enough street army to do destabilize the nation that Britain will be cowed into submission to his political will. Step by step, year by year, until there is no need for him to engineer a formal revolution.

There can be only one outcome to this dispute: defeat for Scargill. No sane government could possibly countenance a settlement that was seen in any way to reward this kind of premeditated, Marxist-inspired mob violence.

Scargill will be defeated. But what of the miners themselves, most of whom epitomize the best of British working-class virtues? They are loyal, hard-working, courageous, open-faced, principled. What effect will the strike have on their working relationships? Miners, more than most other workers, depend on one another for their safety. Trust is at a premium.

The big set-piece confrontations with the police are only part of the Scargill operation. In several villages last week - particularly, but not exclusively, in north Nottinghamshire - working miners were under virtual siege. They spoke of continuing

threats and acts of physical violence, not just against the men; many miners were refusing to work nightshifts for fear that violence would be done to their wives and children at home.

Windows were smashed, doors were boarded up. In one barricaded household a woman, clearly on the verge of a nervous breakdown, explained that her husband, an assistant safety officer, a member of COSA, not the NUM, was working because his union was not on strike. Her son, by a previous marriage, was on strike. They had received consistent threats. Their windows had been smashed. They were shunned by their friends. Their world was in ruins.

Elsewhere, in a small tin hut beside the entrance to a colliery, a group of union officials: one was paying pickets by cheque. Less than £2 a day. I asked him and his colleagues what would happen after it was all over. Two of them raised their clenched fists. "There will be a great sorting out," one said. "You can't prevent accidents down the pit," said the other.

And it is not just the working miners who are suffering. Those on strike but who do not picket are sitting unhappily at home, running out of hope and of money. The record of attendances at GPs' surgeries in mining areas has increased significantly. Many complain of nervous problems. The money lenders are prospering.

Even the pickets are disheartened. The local men standing outside their collieries no longer believe they can win. There is much bravado. But many pickets agreed that they would leave the industry with alacrity if they could find another job: eloquent testimony to fundamental pessimism. No picket was in the least convincing in his protestations of expected victory. They know that Scargill has not had a single "result"

since he became president. Most now have no idea what would constitute victory.

And the pickets see the change in the attitude of the police. Police morale has increased greatly since the spring. Then they were grimly determined but somehow shell-shocked. They knew they had to win. They weren't quite sure that they would. Orgreave was their biggest challenge and their greatest victory. Now they have confidence that they can and will keep order for as long as needs be. Their senior officers, despite the obvious temptation to be *macho* in the face of such unprecedented attacks on their men, refer instead to the terrible social damage that is being inflicted on close-knit mining communities.

The NUM is the only organization that can bring peace and discipline to the coalfields after the strike so that miners who have been at each other's throats can regain confidence in one another. The aim of the NCB and the Government must therefore be to do everything they can to help the vast majority of decent, law-abiding, wanting-to-work miners to rescue their union from the man who has hijacked it and bullied them into striking.

The oft-repeated NUM propaganda that by going on strike the majority have effectively voted for a strike is simply untrue. Of the counties that have been allowed to ballot their members during this dispute the following voted *against* a strike: Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, North Derby, South Derby, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, North Wales, Cumbria. Only one voted in favour: Northumberland.

Miners in Nottinghamshire are already rejecting the leadership of their union. In the past few weeks, as they have come up for re-election, 34 officials who are on strike have been thrown out and been replaced

by non-strikers. Even more committee members have suffered the same fate. Out of the 31 delegates on the Nottingham Area Council of the NUM, only three are active supporters of the strike. That is why the NUM leadership is threatening to set up a "star-chamber" disciplinary committee at its national conference next week.

Miners who go to work should be rewarded, even if they cannot be persuaded to abandon their overtime ban. The NCB should pay the increase that they have already offered to those miners who are working in fields where, say, 80 per cent of the men are at work. They should bring new and generous redundancy terms into operation. In most pits where most men are working, the majority of those still on strike are the men who have the highest record of absenteeism. Pay them off.

So far, legal action against secondary picketing has not been taken, presumably for fear of alienating the Nottinghamshire miners. All the pickets and all the working miners I spoke to last week were agreed on one thing: nothing now would persuade the Nottingham men to stop working. Not even a national ballot majority in favour of a strike, if it could be obtained.

The Government should insist that British Steel, and any other state industry that is affected by actionable secondary picketing, uses the courts to obtain redress. There is absolutely no reason why the NUM should escape the legal consequences of its actions. The sooner it is attacked financially the quicker the non-militant majority will be encouraged to take steps to recover their union from its Marxist president whose vision of the future bears no relation whatsoever to their own.

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David Watt

Why Reagan needs a Nato nudge

The scolding inquiry of the Second World War poster, "Is your journey necessary?", has sprung naturally to mind this week as the Foreign Secretary has plodded doggedly through his mission to Moscow. Two days consumed in swapping guarded incivilities with Soviet officialdom does not, on the face of it, look like expensive ministerial time well spent - all the less so since the Soviet response was so entirely predictable.

Until after the US presidential election - and probably a good deal longer than that - nobody is going to get much sense out of Moscow. Why should Mr Chernomir, at a time when he is consolidating his domestic position, take the slightest risk to assist Ronald Reagan to be re-elected?

Sir Geoffrey Howe would presumably defend himself by pointing out, like Lord Carrington, that "Talking to an equally armed but far less scrupulous adversary is not a concession: it is common prudence". More generally he would claim, no doubt, that the more the Russians are put on the propaganda defensive the better. President Reagan's peace offensive has obviously caught them badly on the hop, and further demonstrations of reasonableness and patience on the part of other Nato powers will press home the advantage and make the management of public opinion by western governments so much easier.

What is important, though, is what happens in the longer run after the US election, after the Russians have adjusted to the consequences of it, and beyond that into the 1990s. There seem to me to be two stages to be considered. The first is to reach some kind of agreed conclusion about the nature of the Soviet threat and what ought to be done about it; the second, and equally important, task is to import some consistency into western policy towards the East - in other words, having made a policy, to find some way of seeing that it sticks.

The first of these is not, I think, so impossible as some people suppose. There is, for one thing, a growing consensus among the main European powers on the subject. The British, French and West German governments are, in effect, advocating much the same discreet, middle-of-the-road position. This identifies the Soviet Union as a dangerous though cautious opportunist whose menace cannot safely be kept in check except by improved western armed deterrence.

It recognizes that we cannot change the Soviet system, or fundamentally undermine the Soviet economy, or even hope to reestablish a lasting superiority over Soviet strategic power. But it maintains that we can achieve a relatively stable stalemate, and at a much lower level of tension and expenditure all round if we are prepared to be moderate and patient, because the great difficulties and weaknesses inherent in the Soviet position are likely to persuade them to reach a compromise.

Can this line be "sold" to Washington? A year, even nine months, ago the idea would have seemed impossible. The ascendancy of the right-wing ideologists over the administration's strategic policy would have ruled out the crucial proposition that it is a mug's game trying to cripple something loosely called "Soviet expansionism" by outspending the Russian defence effort. And because you cannot get American people to put up vast sums for defence without scaring them, any suggestion that the verbal

volume could profitably be turned down would have failed as well (and fail, in fact, it did).

Now things look rather different - and it is possible that they may stay different even after the election. Not only is the budgetary pressure on American defence expenditure going to be even more ferocious but a truly damaging credibility gap will begin to open among allied public opinion (if not in the US) if Reagan tries to change his image yet again and the peacekeeping script of the election is reconverted into *Indiana Jones and the Empire of Evil*. If the Europeans can seize this opportunity to get the president committed, even privately, to some flexible yet precise arms control proposals for next year (as opposed to the rather vague generalities of the last few weeks), they ought to do so.

The second part of the agenda - how to make such a policy last even one presidency - is more difficult. What must strike any historian of the post-war period as astonishing is the way in which an, until recently, rather united western world has alternated over the years between hot and cold, euphoria and near-panic, while Soviet foreign policy and purposes have remained, with only minor variations of method, almost entirely stable.

There have been many reasons for these fluctuations, among them, not least, changes in the real relative strengths of Nato and the Warsaw Pact, brought about by the steady increase in Soviet military power. But the main source of inconsistency has lain in American politics. The interplay of an unsophisticated but self-confident public opinion and an extremely open democratic process has been a perennial incitement to play politics with foreign affairs, particularly with a single central issue like East-West relations, which can be presented in the simple adversarial terms everyone thinks he understands.

The crazy contrast between the Reagan election campaign of 1980, with its "red-hordes-at-the-gate" hysteria, and his current essay in pacific geniality is only the latest of a long line of examples.

It is a tall order to expect European politicians to set about influencing American public opinion (and from now until the second Tuesday in November they had better keep their hands out of the mangle) but it has always seemed to me that both they and their embassies are often incredibly tentative in criticizing American policy to Congress - and still more to the American public at large - for fear of irritating the administration. Others, particularly the Israelis, have no gentlemanly scruples on this account, and while I would definitely not recommend some of their practices, their recognition that it is possible for a foreign government to take advantage of the openness of the system and actually to enhance its influence over US policy by educating public over the heads of the government is a significant one.

We cannot do without the US, but we cannot afford to leave our arrangements for influencing American policy as they have been these last few years. The US election, the Chernomir hiatus, the Fontainebleau summit, the arrival of Lord Carrington as secretary-general of Nato, all provide us with a pause in which to put our East-West act together again in a better US-European framework. We shall probably be wasting our time, though, if we forget that in the end it is American public opinion that will be the stabilizing, or destabilizing, basis of the whole.

Philip Howard

In the beginning was the Broad

Oxford is... waiting interminably for somebody to leave a parking space in St Giles, and then having it stolen under your nose. It is as if the Polynesian War from a blank notebook. It is putting one's foot through the skin of the Trinity Rugby Eight into the Isis, and sinking with all hands.

On the better hand, Oxford is being taught by Frankel and Holladay, Ryle and Austin, Hare and Higham. It is punting, all in the golden afternoon, to the sound of medieval Latin verse read well. It is sitting in a carrel in the Bodleian reading a text that has been glossed by many generations of Oxford scholars, and reading it well.

On the balance, Oxford is the best place in God's green world, where every text shall be made straight, and the rough places plain, and all the essays shall be written on time. There ought to be a history of the University of Oxford. As a matter of fact, there is.

The *Bibliography of Printed Works relating to the University of Oxford*, published in 1968, listed no fewer than 8,868 items. And that took no account of biographies, novels, guide-books, and other publications that have a great deal of interest to say about the University of Oxford, its history and character.

The first volume of the official history of Oxford has just been published. It is a suitably majestic affair, edited by T. H. Aston, fellow of Corpus, and Keeper of the University Archives, and written by a team of choice and master, and mistress, Oxford scholars. The founding father of the enterprise was Lord Bullock.

Back in 1966 he observed that the university was engaged on an extensive series of reforms, and that this was therefore a particularly appropriate time to put these reforms into a proper historical

perspective, which would be a declaration of confidence in ourselves as heirs of a great tradition.

Volume I, *The Early Oxford Schools*, is the first to be published: this is by no means always the case with mammoth, multi-volume works of the sort with which the Oxford University Press has boarded the reading world for generations. It is edited by the medieval historian Jeremy Catto of Oriel. Next spring we expect Volume III on Tudor Oxford, edited by Professor James McConica of All Souls.

That will be followed by the eighteenth-century volume (in two parts, naturally), edited by the late Dame Lucy Sutherland and Dr Leslie Mitchell of University.

The mills of such a publication grind slow, and they grind exceedingly small. Volume I, which we now welcome, spends 684 pages taking the story of Oxford from the beginning to the great philosophical debate between William of Ockham and his Mertonian opponents in the early fourteenth century, when people boasted that admirable Minerva had defected from Paris and come to roost at Oxford.

Oxford University is like an old family that has always lived in the same great house, and never thrown anything away. I find it moving that we know what a don was lecturing about at the end of the twelfth century, and the sort of students he was teaching.

If we had gone up for the Hilary Term of 1193, we could have heard Alexander Neckham in the theology schools asserting that the intercourse of husband and wife, legitimately practised, can be meritorious for eternal life; and expounding the *Song of Solomon* as a dialogue between the human spirit and wisdom. Come to think of it, it sounds more fun than some of the lectures I have sat through at Oxford.



Fischer-Dieskau (left) and Brendel: extra-sensory musical perception

(which constituted the first half of the Alban Berg's programme, just to make comparison more difficult). You might say that this group is aptly named for the work, for the wild tumult that suddenly erupts into the *adagio*, with a sound a century ahead of its time, makes the listener think for a moment that he actually is listening to some such *Schrecklichkeit*.

Ah, but only for a moment. Schubert is never so certain of harmony as when he is deploying it in dissonance, and there was no danger that these five remarkable players would lose sight of the bridge that lay ahead of them and that would bring them back safely to land.

As I have said, the Hohenems Schubertiade is built on the rock of Schubert's songs, and throughout the seven years I have been going to Hohenems, I cannot recall so great a quantity of beautiful singing. To start with, Peter Schreier actually arrived, which he often doesn't. His perfect diction, his phrasing (so instinctively right), the delicacy with which he colours and shades the meaning - these have always been his immediately recognizable characteristics. If I were a young *Lieder* singer I don't think I would bother with teachers - I would just follow Schreier around to hear how he does it. But this time his qualities were augmented by a kind of pure and haunting melancholy behind the voice which conveyed Schubert's understanding of pain (in e.g. *Der Doppelgänger* and *Der Wanderer an den Mond*) more powerfully, and with greater certainty that the pain is as much part of what we have to learn as is joy, than I can previously recall even for Schreier.

Correction

George Ball was US Under-secretary of State, not Secretary of State, as described on this page on Wednesday.

freshness of her singing and personality (she reminds me of Söderström) in such spring-like works as *Das Lied im Grünen* or such "standards" as the *Ave Maria*, which we have so often heard massacred by amateurs and not all that seldom by professionals, symbolized the whole spirit and quality of this tiny, huge festival.

But even if everything else at Hohenems had gone sour, up to and including the whipped cream for the gâteau in the Schloss Café, one performance would still remain with me for ever: the one in which Fischer-Dieskau and Brendel combined for *Die Winterreise*.

This was a musical partnership like one of the great love-matches of history: the rapport between the two great artists seemed - indeed, I have no doubt was - extra-sensory, as the voice and the piano-line reflected each other, supported each other, infused meaning into each other. From the very first words of the first song - "*Fremd bin ich eingezogen*" - I knew we were in for something very far out of the ordinary, delivered as it was with such force, directness and expression. Fischer-Dieskau's voice has, of course, darkened over the years. I would be surprised to hear that he is still singing Falstaff, or even Mandryka. But his flawless technique, the foundation of his art, is now so much part of the very air he breathes that it seems as though not even his subconscious mind needs to think about it so that he can put every last scrap of his musical integrity and understanding into projecting the innermost quality of the music. Fischer-Dieskau cannot sing a coarse note, a clumsy phrase, an exaggerated emphasis; you can hear this in the way in which he imperceptibly swells a *crescendo*, approaches a *rallentando*, cuts off cleanly a final "it" or leaves echoing a final "m", binds the before and after of a modulation into one musical whole. Everything goes into Schubert's passionate, tragic cry, with its ending like that of *Krieg Lear* - outwardly despairing, but inwardly *Heureux qui, comme Ulysse, a fait un beau voyage*, a voyage into discovery, volence and resolution.

It was very clear to me, as these two great artists embraced on the platform when it was over, that they were conscious of what they had achieved, and were as moved by performing it as we were by listening to it. I do not think I have ever been at a musical performance from which so many of the audience emerged, and went home, in silence.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INFLATION AND THE POUND

The Government's reluctance to raise interest rates is understandable. A quick check along the domestic dials of the British economy shows no real sign of "overheating". Output is rising by three per cent a year or less, even after allowing for the effects of the miners' strike. Industrial surveys still reveal spare capacity. Registered unemployment is still rising at an underlying rate of nearly 10,000 a month.

The money figures are, admittedly, a little more ambiguous. Sterling M3, the most venerable of the Government's targeted money aggregates, is right at the top of its permitted range, although "little M0", of which the Chancellor keeps telling us to take equal notice, is down at the bottom of its range. The widest measure of total private-sector liquidity is growing faster than either.

On the Government's side, there are some real worries about public expenditure. The miners' strike is beginning to cost real money. Local authorities are overspending again. Public-sector pay is running way over the three per cent target. Although the Chancellor should view none of these developments with equanimity, his borrowing target is however protected by a substantial contingency reserve. And there is good reason to accept the Bank of England's view that monetary control will become easier in the second half of the year.

So the Chancellor should not be panicked into a repeat of last July's emergency package of public expenditure cuts. And he has been right to resist a rise in interest rates on the inadequate evidence of erratic money numbers in the spring. However, how long should he go on resisting it in defiance of the exchange rate? The British economy does not exist in splendid isolation, and

sterling is beginning to send the Chancellor an important signal. He has to calculate the point at which his strategy looks less like benign neglect than an attempt to buck market forces.

It is never easy to tell which of a miasma of worries is most affecting sterling. Clearly, the miners' strike is not helping; and the pound's remaining petrocurrency attributes make it vulnerable to a soft oil market. But the difference between British and American interest rates is plainly an important factor.

The image of "decoupling" interest rates is unhelpful, because it suggests the two can be completely detached. Instead, what has been happening is that the elastic between the two has been successfully stretched. A year ago, British money market rates were more than a couple of points higher than American rates; now they are a couple of points lower.

That is a change the Government can be proud of, but elastic can be stretched too far. When it is, the pound takes the strain. Sterling's dollar exchange rate, which dropped below \$1.32 yesterday, has fallen more than 20 cents since last summer; its overall trade-weighted index has dropped seven per cent.

It would obviously be nice for the Chancellor if the strain were to be eased by a cut in American interest rates or a sharp turn in market sentiment against the overvalued dollar. But there comes a point at which it is no longer any good complaining about other people's follies, and painful decisions may have to be taken on this side of the Atlantic.

There is no real doubt that the Thatcher government allowed the pound to rise too far and too fast in 1979-80; an increase which Dr Otto Emminger, former president of the German

Bundesbank, was yesterday quoted by the Treasury select committee of MPs as calling "the most excessive overvaluation which any major currency has experienced in recent monetary history". The Government has since been allowing the pound to coast down in order to claw back some lost competitiveness. Whenever the slide becomes too steep, however, it poses a threat to the Government's inflation targets.

In 1981, when sterling's trade-weighted index had fallen 10 per cent in six months, Sir Geoffrey Howe raised interest rates four percentage points. Sterling's fall this year has not been so precipitate, but there are reasons why it may be more important for the Chancellor to prove his anti-inflationary zeal.

In 1981, sterling's plunge came straight after an equally precipitate climb, which had not fully worked its way through the economy; the pound's recent fall follows three years of almost continuous decline, during which importers have already cut their profit margins. Thus the experience of the 1980s, during which a falling exchange rate has not prevented a falling inflation rate, might turn away in 1984. The second reason is that this drop comes at a very delicate turning point in the Chancellor's counter-inflationary strategy, when it, too, could so easily turn away.

Mr Lawson's new medium-term framework, inflation will come down by only about half a per cent a year. Just a modest overshoot could easily suggest to rather too many people that inflation was instead on an upward track. There is already too much evidence that ministers no longer see the reduction of inflation as the paramount priority in which they held it in the first Thatcher government.

Sale of Midland Bank shares

From the Chairman of the Midland Bank Group

Sir, In last Friday's *Times* Midland Bank was headlined three times, once on the front page, once on the financial editorial page and again on the market report page. The effect of this extensive coverage was to leave your readers with a wholly false impression.

Apparently, your reporter heard that a line of Midland Bank shares was being sold and discovered the name of the leading firm of stockbrokers handling the transaction. This appeared on your front page as "one million shares were unexpectedly dumped on the market" and as a slight variation in the two separate reports on the financial pages as "unloaded one million shares" and "big sellers of Midland".

From the information which we have it seems likely that the number of shares which changed hands in this transaction was only one third of the number quoted in your reports.

Your reporter was apparently given some figures of Latin American debt. These were in public documents published some time ago but he apparently understood that they were new information and conveyed this quite wrong impression in his report.

More importantly, however, in putting in these figures, he made a simple but fundamental error which overstated the Midland Group's Latin American debt by some 60 per cent in the case of Argentina, and over 40 per cent in the case of Brazil and Mexico.

The reports then proceeded to indulge in the repetition of quite unsubstantiated rumours put around by another journal, about a possible dividend cut and a boardroom row about it - both of which are completely false.

All of the reports were capped by misleading headlines and, to add further imbalance, the bank's strong reputation was cut out apparently when it was found that there was too much copy for the space available.

Midland Bank is dealing with a situation which has a long history; our staff around the world are tackling it methodically, purposefully and energetically. The problems associated with our 57 per cent interest in Crocker have to be seen in the context of a group in which the main businesses are doing well and making progress in a very competitive marketplace.

We are, of course, obliged for the correction of the double counting of the Latin American debt in Saturday's edition but, as we all know, it is extremely difficult to effectively correct false information once it is published. The proper course for a long-respected newspaper of record like *The Times* is surely not to commit such dangerous and misleading errors in the first place.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD BARRON, Chairman,
Midland Bank Group,
Poultry, EC2.

From Mr R. B. Moberly

Sir, As Joseph Butler did not quite say, things were what they were, and their results were or are what they were; or was; or why then should we be deceived?

To me, and I imagine to Professor Mascal (June 25), what we refer to as the Incarnation and the Resurrection happened, in a small corner of the Roman Empire, at particular dates even if we don't know those dates; objectively, or not at all.

I very readily agree with my friend Dr James Mark (June 27) that we've always been at risk of somewhat misdescribing them; and at best cannot hope to understand them or their effects at all fully. But it doesn't follow that liberal theologians have therefore understood the "unique revelation" better, than simple believers do.

Also, life has taught me that what is provable or verifiable is not always important; and that what is somewhat mysterious and not by no means always verifiable, let alone provable.

Yours faithfully,
R. B. MOBERLY,
Little Hollies,
Station Road,
Woldingham, Surrey.

Upon the waters

From Mrs C. Travers

Sir, Not only may the feeding of wholemeal bread to ducks be the ultimate in wildlife preservation (Lieutenant-Colonel Moody, June 28), but it appears to be preferred by the ducks themselves, certainly in Cambridge.

The health-conscious ducks on the Cam regularly spurn my two-year-old daughter's offerings of sliced white bread in favour of offerings, by others more discerning, of wholemeal bread.

Yours faithfully,
CLARE TRAVERS,
45 St Andrew's Road, Cambridge.

Spanish extradition

From the Ambassador of Spain

Sir, In the article on extradition between Spain and the United Kingdom (July 3), your Diplomatic Correspondent states, inter alia, that Spain has not ratified the European Extradition Convention.

This is incorrect. Spain ratified it by instrument of April 21, 1982. It is also ratified by West Germany, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Holland and Norway. But not by the United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey have also ratified.

If Great Britain had acted likewise there would now be no problem in extraditing alleged criminals from Spain.

Too great demands on local councils

From Councillor Norman Hawkins

Sir, Alfred Morris, MP ("Obey Whitehall, break the law", July 3) draws attention to a problem facing many local authorities, not just the few much-quoted Labour-controlled councils faced with rate-capping.

The 1984-85 Government assessment of Hillingdon's need to spend is £79.4m. The budget is £87.8m. Take the social services element. According to the Government this authority is spending 56 per cent, or £5m, above their assessment. Let us examine services for the elderly. Comparable authorities are assessed to spend £130 for each elderly person. Hillingdon is assessed, without explanation, at £111. If we had been assessed at the higher average figure, we would have received £90,000 additional grant this year.

To cut the expenditure to the Government's assessment is impossible for an authority which, under Conservative control, has responsibly managed its social services over the past six years to meet priority needs, new legislation and reflect national policies.

In this time we have made efficiency savings, cut the bureaucracy and redistributed money in the budget to develop high-priority services, especially care in the community for the elderly and for mentally handicapped people. In doing so, we have saved the health service money and have put into effect explicit Government policies to care for people in their own homes and in other forms of community care rather than in expensive hospitals.

If we cut social services we will force both the health authority and supplementary benefits to spend more, at substantially greater cost to public funds than Hillingdon's services. What sense is there in this?

What prospect, too, for the people of Hillingdon if control over the level of local services moves from their elected representatives to Whitehall mandarins or to less democratically controlled health authorities and costs more in so doing?

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN HAWKINS,
Leader of the Council,
London Borough of Hillingdon,
Majority Party Office,
Civic Centre,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex,
July 4.

From the President of the Association of Directors of Social Services

Sir, Alf Morris is not alone in his concern about the conflicting messages coming from Whitehall. The

Association of Directors of Social Services has just submitted evidence on this issue to the all-party Social Services Committee, which is presently considering the issue of care in the community.

Our society seems at last to be disenchanted with its legacy of large, long-stay institutions, many of them built in the Victorian era. Care in the community is good news if it promises a life in ordinary houses in ordinary streets and with support and dignity accorded to the elderly, the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped. It is not to be welcomed if it means emptying wards simply to effect economies within the health service.

We know that some patients have been discharged to multiple-occupied rooms in lodging houses offering a minimum of amenities and comfort, with no care during the day and with extraordinary generous payments made for the accommodation since the changes in the supplementary benefits regulations six months ago.

The ADSS is also aware of increasing numbers of disabled elderly people who find themselves placed in private residential care homes, again with the high costs met through supplementary benefits payments.

However, two considerations should not be overlooked. First, given adequate support, most elderly folk dearly love to remain in or return to their own homes. Second, that support could usually be provided at much less cost to the state.

It seems a sorry state of affairs when people are forced into an expensive and inappropriate form of publicly-funded care because one arm of our state services is instructed to sanction and pay for such provision, whilst the more acceptable and less costly alternative is denied because local authorities are under such pressure to curtail expenditure.

My association would like to see the DHSS finding a means to overcome a situation which is forcing increasing numbers of frail old people to abandon their independence simply because there is no mechanism which allows money to be channelled away from expensive residential care into services which are both preferred and less costly.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JILLINGS, President,
Association of Directors of Social Services,
As from: County Offices,
Matlock,
Derbyshire,
July 4.

What of the coins in our own pockets? I realise that 700 million is rather a lot. But I believe there are that many Chinamen.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. KENDELL (alias Kiosk),
University of Edinburgh,
Department of Psychiatry,
Royal Edinburgh Hospital,
Morningside Park,
Edinburgh,
July 2.

Now, the wheel has gone full circle. Mr G. W. Holt, of Sogot (June 27) wants to increase still further the subsidy to continuing so that miners will continue to be forced to work in those more difficult pits. He thinks this will save jobs. The reverse is true.

Expensive coal would push up prices in all British industries, making it more difficult to sell British steel, British cars etc. The alternative of additional subsidies for coal, which would have to come from taxpayers' pockets, would have the same effect.

Few economists doubt that the net result of keeping near exhausted pits open would be loss of British jobs, and not a gain of jobs.

The Coal Board must be criticised for failing to get this central point over.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. TAIT,
Orchardcroft,
Grimmshill,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire,
June 29.

The miners' strike

From Mr A. W. Tait

Sir, Those of us who were raised in mining communities can recall that everyone used to wish that the time would come when it would no longer be necessary to send men underground to earn enough to feed and clothe their families.

I should add that in terminating the Anglo-Spanish Extradition Treaty of 1878 Spain did no more than follow the procedure envisaged by article 17 of the Convention, itself, which provided that either party could deem it to be at an end by giving six months' prior notice to the other to that effect.

The only reason why Spain did so was because the formalities required to be followed in the United Kingdom in the magistrates' courts, under the Extradition Act, 1870, and under the Convention were impossible to implement, by reason of the fact that the very detailed evidence required from Spain could not be provided without being in breach of the Spanish Law of Criminal Procedure. That is why Spain was invariably unsuccessful in her

extradition applications to the United Kingdom.

This country, on the other hand, met with constant success, because the authority in Spain charged with the duty of processing and granting extradition applications was the Ministry of Justice. No Spanish court had to be satisfied that if the events had taken place in Spain a trial by a Spanish criminal court would have been in order, which is the British requirement by reference to English law.

Extradition treaties must work both ways if they are to work at all. Spain has 44 extradition treaties which meet this test.

Yours faithfully,
JOSE J. PUIG de la BELLACASA,
Spanish Embassy,
24 Belgrave Square, SW1,
July 4.

Questions of law in N Ireland

From Mr S.C. Silkin, QC

Sir, Mr Hall-Jones (July 3) and Lieutenant-Colonel Wakerley (June 12) argue that the unlawful acts of soldiers in the course of duty in Northern Ireland should fall outside the emergency legislation so that they would be tried by judge and jury, not by judge alone.

Mr Hall-Jones goes even further; to him it is deplorable even to subject a member of the security forces to trial in connection with his use of force in performing his military duties.

This second contention is as far reaching as it is far-fetched. Mr Hall-Jones gives as example "a soldier on patrol genuinely (but mistakenly) believing that a person had a gun and shooting him." But who, if not a court, is to decide on the genuineness of the belief and the reasonableness of the action resulting from it?

Mr Hall-Jones rightly accepts that a soldier on patrol who robs a grocery store should lose immunity. What then, if whilst on patrol, without any security reason for doing so, he beats up or even shoots to kill a wholly innocent citizen? And what if he advances a security reason ("I thought he had a gun" or "I thought he was a terrorist who would tell other terrorists of our presence")?

Where are his actions to be judged and who is to judge them if not in the ordinary courts by the same judges applying the same legal principles as when trying other citizens? And if soldiers in those circumstances are to be immune, what of police and what of prison officers? Should there be one law for the citizen and another for the established authority?

The argument relating to the emergency legislation carries rather more force. Mr Hall-Jones must understand, however, that for an Attorney General to decree that all soldiers, police and prison officers, alleged to have committed offences whilst on duty should be tried by judge and jury would be as much a political decision as to decree that they be subject to the same rules as others.

As one of the Attorneys General concerned, I never found this an easy decision. There seemed to me, however, to be two persuasive arguments supporting the second alternative. First, it was open to Parliament, when the emergency legislation was regularly renewed (still more when, after the report of the Gardiner committee, it was amended) to exempt from its provisions classes such as members of the security forces when on duty; it never did so.

Secondly, the purpose of the "Diplock" courts was to avoid the likelihood of perverse verdicts or even inability to reach a verdict because of extreme partisanship or intimidation. This could be as likely to occur in the case of a highly publicized shooting by a soldier as where the defendant was an alleged "terrorist".

Thus to depart from the principle of equality before the law was justified neither by principle nor by Parliamentary action nor by practical considerations.

Yours faithfully,
SAM C. SILKIN,
The Athenaeum,
Falmouth, SW1,
July 3.

Union postal votes

From Lord Beloff

Sir, As a regular and admiring reader of Geoffrey Smith's Commentary, I am surprised to find that he classifies (July 2) the Lord's backing for postal votes in trade union elections as a "right-wing policy".

Outside Parliament the policy is strongly supported by the Association of Conservative Trade Unions, not usually regarded as on the right of the party; in the lobbies it had the support not only of Tory peers but of all the Liberal and SDP peers present and three Labour peers as well as of eminent cross-benchers. Hardly a right-wing coalition.

I expect similar all-party backing when the matter comes up again during the report stage of the Bill on July 12.

Yours truly,
BELOFF,
Conservative Research Department,
32 Smith Square,
Westminster, SW1.

Old Town Hall sale

From the Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council

Sir, Miles Kingston (June 29) will no doubt be pleased to learn that the contract for the sale of the Old Town Hall was completed today, and the repayments of the royal borough have received £5.3m as the purchase price.

For no longer will what is left of the building have to be preserved. Instead demolition has already started.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS FREEMAN,
Town Hall,
Kensington, W8,
July 2.

Mum's not the word

From Captain D. Bromley-Martin, RN

Sir, My children arrived with a ready-made step grandmother in office. It was unanimously agreed that she should be known as "Steppie", and so it was.

Yours faithfully,
D. BROMLEY-MARTIN,
Boham Hoe,
Chichester,
Sussex,
June 29.

PAVED WITH SECOND THOUGHTS

In the House of Lords last week the Government suffered a famous and deserved reverse; yesterday the Cabinet acquiesced. Lord Whitelaw evidently convinced his colleagues that they will have to live with the consequences of the upper House's prickly sensitivity to matters of electoral propriety - even if the result is a further year for Mr Livingstone's regime. This ought to signal the end of the political sensation: the time has come for the plan for restructuring municipal affairs in the cities to be placed in full perspective.

Within the broad gauge of policy on local government the mauling given the paving Bill matters little. Surely the key to that policy - indeed the rationale for engaging in this profligate exercise in adjusting council boundaries and functions - remains the control of public spending, the slimming down of the institutions of the state. The disparity between councils' current spending and the Government's strategic totals is painfully large; this year, too, there is excess on capital account. All

eyes ought to be on the chosen mechanism for cutting that "over spend", the newly enacted rate-capping powers. Mr Jenkin, whose reserves of strength, imagination and straightforward political common sense look dangerously depleted, will do the Government a disservice unless he ensures that the array of financial targets for councils to be unveiled later this month do work and that he and his officials eventually have the many loose ends of the rate-capping scheme sewn together.

Getting the paving Bill in perspective may mean (for ministers, including these spending ministers in education and social services whose devotion to controlling council outlays often looks very thin) concentrating on rate-capping even at the expense, perhaps, of some slippage in their timetable for the Greater London Council and the metropolitan counties. It certainly means not being taken in by Mr Livingstone's speeches.

Putting the Bill in perspective means, simply, recalling that it is a preliminary measure to a

scheme of reform on which the Government has still to convince. Much of the paving Bill is good sense: there can be few cogent objections to compelling the GLC and the counties to cooperate with other councils by providing relevant information. The Government has indicated it wishes to amend the Bill to introduce safeguards for the extra year of Mr Livingstone's tenure (provided his by-election ploy did not go awry). This is right; there are a number of technical points at which a bid by Mr Livingstone and his colleagues for Armageddon would need to be stopped up (although some observers have forgotten both the existing powers of the Audit Commission and the generally sensible Tory opposition at County Hall which is unlikely to stand idly by while financial silliness goes on). But, once again, dithering the paving Bill should not absorb too much attention. Mr Livingstone's extravaganzas are only a part of the bloated gap between local government's outlays and the public spending plans.

Honesty to God

From Mr R. B. Moberly

Sir, As Joseph Butler did not quite say, things were what they were, and their results were or are what they were; or was; or why then should we be deceived?

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DRESSING BY THE RIGHT

Nobody, our Brussels correspondent reports, wants to sit on the right in the new European Parliament. No one, that is, except the ten National Front members from France and five neo-fascists from Italy. The question is, who should sit next to them?

The Liberals have traditionally sat on the right. When Conservatives - outlandish creatures from Britain and Denmark - made their first appearance in Strasbourg in 1973, the Liberals in a gesture of misguided hospitality allowed them "temporary" accommodation on the inside right, rather than banish them at once to the outer fringes.

They should have known better. Conservatives are not people to relinquish a position once occupied. And, strange to say, British Conservatives seem to dislike being labelled "right-wing" in a European context.

That seems a rather anachronistic inhibition to have. The days are surely gone, on both sides of the Channel, when it was fashionable to be left and unfashionable to be right. Could it be that Mrs Thatcher has tolerated, and even urged us all to re-elect, a Conservative group in the European Parliament composed of old-fashioned Wets?

It could indeed, but that is not the whole story. The natural allies of the Conservatives in Europe are the German Christian Democrats and French Gaullists. Neither of these has so far been willing to be formally yoked with Conservatives in the European Parliament: the Germans because it would mean breaking with more "socially" minded Christian Democrats in Italy and the Low Countries, the French because they have not quite shaken off the *etatiste* legacy of de Gaulle himself.

Until now, though, the Conservatives have sat next to their European friends. They do not want the Liberals driving a wedge between them. But would that be any less absurd than the fact that at present they themselves sit between the Gaullists and the Giscardians; or that the German Free Democrats sit to the right of the Christian Democrats, even when the former were in coalition with the Social Democrats in Bonn?

The present groups in the European Parliament do not make a lot of sense, and the idea of a spectrum from right to left is any way foreign to British tradition. Conservatives have never been ashamed to oppose Liberalism from the right in Britain. They are in danger of making fools of themselves if they make a fuss about being placed on the right in Strasbourg.

Control of shotguns

From Mr John Richards

Sir, The letter from Lord Harris of Greenwich (July 2) suggests that inadequate controls over shotguns leads to their criminal use.

There is no evidence to suggest that tightening controls over shotguns would have a significant effect on crime. Official criminal statistics, 1982, show that out of 2,580 armed robberies, 364 involved long-barrelled shotguns, 372 involved sawn-off shotguns, whilst 1,440 involved pistols. The latter have been subject to the most stringent controls since 1922.

Criminals obtain firearms from a variety of sources and it is seldom that a certificated weapon is used in crime. The real problem is the vast number of uncertificated firearms. Between 1946 and 1968 the Metropolitan Police Force alone had surrendered to it 96,208 firearms of

all types, 54,106 of which were illegally held.

It is already an offence to own an uncertificated firearm, but it is clear that the large number of guns which are used in criminal activities are held illegally and often imported from overseas by organised gun-runners.

The Home Secretary, in a recent letter to the Police Federation's parliamentary adviser, Mr Eldon Griffiths, also recognised that no system of control, no matter how strict, could ever totally prevent the determined criminal from acquiring a firearm. Furthermore, it was recognised that at a time when the Government was trying to cut costs the imposition of tighter controls over shotguns would result in massive increases in administrative costs in each of the county constabularies.

The reason why firearms fees have not been increased is due to the

variously differing administrative costs which reflect differing practices in each constabulary. If the lowest costs of issuing and renewing shotgun certificates was taken, a fee would undoubtedly be reduced.

Of more concern must be the elimination of wasteful procedures, the apprehension of criminals who use guns and the imposition of stiffer penalties on criminals. Imposing still further restrictions, at ever-increasing costs, on law-abiding shotgun certificate holders who only wish to co-operate with the police in combating armed crime cannot be the correct solution.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RICHARDS,
The British Association for Shooting & Conservation,
Marford Mill,
Rosseth,
Wrexham,
Clwyd,
July 2.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE
July 5: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Berwickshire today.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness this morning visited Fairbairn Court (Bield Housing Association accommodation) at Greenlaw and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, Mr. James W. B. Swan, and the Chairman of the Association (Mr. J. S. Murphy).

The Queen opened Fairbairn Court by unveiling a commemorative plaque. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh then visited Heron House, a new tourist information centre, where the Queen opened the new Tourist Information Centre in Heron House. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh then visited Heron House, a new tourist information centre, where the Queen opened the new Tourist Information Centre in Heron House.

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CLARENDON HOUSE
July 5: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this afternoon in a garden party given by the International Students Trust in Park Crescent Gardens.

Lady Angela Oswald and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance. The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, President of the Save the Children Fund, this evening attended a garden party given by the International Students Trust in Park Crescent Gardens.

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Mr C. J. D. Bates
and Miss S. C. Beaumont
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Sir Dawson, and Lady Bates, daughter of Sir John Bates, of Buntingford, Cambridgeshire.

Mr R. Buchanan
and Miss R. A. Dancy
The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Buchanan, of Glenisla, Forth, near Liverpool, and Brigette, daughter of Mr Michael C. Dancy, of Mawson Smith, Cornwall, and Mrs Peter Twiss, of Newleworth, Tipperary, Hampshire.

Mr P. D. Clark
and Miss F. A. Egerton
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of the late Mr S. E. Clark, and of Miss F. A. D. Egerton, and Mrs Judy Egerton.

Mr J. A. Coleman
and Miss S. E. McKenna
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs J. A. Coleman, of Shawford House, Somerset, and Susan Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerard McKenna, of Firwood Mount, Cheshire.

Mr J. H. Cottle
and Miss P. J. Garland
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr S. C. E. W. Cottle, of Kendal, Westmorland, and of the late Mr A. R. Cottle, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Gardiner, of Hampstead.

Mr D. C. Eldridge
and Miss C. R. Granger
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs D. C. Eldridge, of Binsted, Isle of Wight, and Rosemary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Granger, of Thorp Arch, Yorkshire.

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Mr M. J. Gillies
and Miss V. P. Cuzens
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs A. R. Gillies, of Haywards Heath, Sussex, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. S. Cuzens, of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Mr S. C. Goddard
and Dr F. A. Muncy
The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Mr and Mrs G. S. Goddard, of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Felicity, daughter of Dr and Mrs F. A. Muncy, of Linton, Cambridge.

Mr N. T. Goudy
and Miss S. E. Cliff
The engagement is announced between Nigel Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs T. D. Goudy, of Wight House, Ballards Lane, Lymington, Hampshire, and Susan Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. E. Cliff, of Kennel Holt, Cranbrook.

Mr A. A. Hinesworth
and Miss C. P. Mason
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs D. Hinesworth, of Hubberts Bridge, Lincolnshire, and Tina, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. H. Mason, of Sevenoaks and Tokyo.

Mr N. P. L. Keyes
and Miss S. A. Major
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs N. P. L. Keyes, of New Malden, Surrey, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. A. Major, of Exmouth, Devon.

Mr E. D. Leigh-Pemberton
and Miss J. E. B. Allsopp
The engagement is announced between Edward, third son of Mr and Mrs Leigh-Pemberton, of Torry Hill, Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. E. B. Allsopp, of Little Cornwell Grove, Farnham, Dorset.

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Mr P. R. Le Mesurier Ruston
and Miss C. Gannon
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs P. R. Ruston, of Lyndhurst, Hampshire, and Catherine, daughter of Dr and Mrs J. P. Gannon, of Selby, West Sussex.

Mr A. P. Marrian
and Miss J. C. Jones
The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place on August 11 in Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge, between Anthony, younger son of Dr Denis Marrian, CVO, and Mrs Marrian, of Cambridge, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. C. Jones, of Hereford.

Mr R. P. Morgan
and Miss E. C. Aldworth
The engagement is announced between Rowan, son of Mr and Mrs R. P. Morgan, of Great Dunmow, Essex, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. J. Aldworth, of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

Mr P. J. Parham
and Miss A. C. A. L. Gledoye
The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mr and Mrs John Parham, of Ladywood, South Asot, Berkshire, and Kasia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Gledoye, of Oxford and Cumbria.

Mr R. E. Pooley
and Miss S. R. Bradbridge
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. E. Pooley, of the late Mrs Pamela Pooley, of West Meon, Hampshire, and Sarah, only daughter of the late Mr Anthony Bradbridge, and of Mrs Jane Jones, and stepdaughter of Mr Stephen L. Jones, of Far Oakridge, Gloucestershire.

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Mr J. H. D. Rankin
and Miss A. L. Edmunds
The engagement is announced between Jamie, son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Rankin, of Little Stanbury Hall, Roehampton, Essex, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Edmunds, of Micklefield Hall, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr A. M. Sefiani
and Miss S. C. MacColl
The engagement is announced between Alid, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs A. M. Sefiani, and Sheena, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David MacColl, of Rowhook Farm, Rowhook, Sussex.

Mr J. S. Shackell
and Miss A. V. E. Daly
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. S. Shackell, of Melbourne, Australia, and Alyssum Verity, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs M. J. Daly, of Mt. Eliza, Australia.

Mr C. A. Short
and Miss R. P. D. C. S. Marshall
The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs C. A. Short, of Hillingdon, Middlesex, and Romina, daughter of the late Mr A. Marshall, and the late Mrs Mignon Scicluna Marshall, of the Palazzo Parisio, Malta GC.

Mr L. J. Voignac
and Miss S. J. M. Reisman
The engagement is announced between Laurent, younger son of Dr M. and Dr G. Voignac, of Paris, and Sophie, elder daughter of Mr T. H. Reisman, and Mrs J. A. N. A. Reisman, of London.

Mr C. W. Wickenden
and Miss M. M. Whittear
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs W. W. Wickenden, of Redhill, Surrey, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. R. Whittear, of Hillingdon, Middlesex.

Mr C. W. Wickenden
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OBITUARY

PROF WILLIAM FISHER Geographer of the Middle East

Professor William Bayne Fisher, who died on June 29 aged 67, was Professor of Geography in the University of Durham from 1956 to 1981.

Fisher's life in its early stages had not been easy. He absented himself from school in Darwen to sit for University Entrance at Manchester, to be later chastised for truancy by a headmaster who scorned the notion of going to University.

Study in Paris was barely over when the War began. During this interruption Fisher distinguished himself as a Royal Air Force Officer liaising with the French in Syria and the Lebanon. France gave him a life-long interest in wine, and War Service, his abiding concern with the Middle East.

A lectureship in Manchester (1946) and Aberdeen (1947), with a Carnegie Scholarship preceded his becoming a reader in Durham in 1954, where he became the Professor who built up one of the largest and most progressive departments of Geography known. He also advised on geography teaching in schools and achieved international recognition, as well as deserved his Royal Geographical Society's Murchison Award in 1973.

One of the few major Middle Eastern geographers of the day, he has a fitting memorial in *The Middle East: A Physical, Social and Regional Geography* (1950) which has gone through seven editions.

Fisher gave Durham its Centre of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, but his range was not restricted. He published in French on the demography of Normandy and, with colleagues who had also been his generous teacher's protégés, works on Spain and Malta. He was Editor of Volume I of *The Cambridge History of Iran*, and regularly wrote contributions to current reference works on the Middle East, besides numerous other studies.

In the Yorkshire Dales or Arabia, to travel with Bill Fisher was to share in exceptional discernment of physical and social environmental elements as he unobtrusively pointed out features and lucidly explained them in geological, climatic and sociological terms. Unforgettable were those sudden invitations to drive outside Durham, for the stranger to see some castle or, more gravely and with few words, the devastation of townships ruined by modern industrial change. A cluster of wild gentians would be explained as part of an Ice Age's legacy. Fisher could make others see through the eyes of the geographer.

This interest and his relish of the society of the Close were associated with devotion to Durham Cathedral, as with his regard for those vocational and professional classes whose probability and endeavours he shared.

DR MAURICE PARTIDGE

Dr Maurice Partidge, Consulting Psychiatrist at St George's Hospital, London and the Royal Marsden Hospital, died on June 29 after a prolonged period of illness.

Dr Partidge was a remarkable and intriguing character. All who knew him will retain vivid memories of that short round figure with a somewhat owl-like spectacled countenance, often dressed in thick tweed suits, not too well pressed.

During the war he served as a psychiatric specialist (Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander, RNRV) first at King's College Hospital, London, and later in the Middle East.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Tebbit reveals little on mergers policy

The Government's long-awaited new statement on competition and mergers policy was made yesterday by Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary. It turns out to involve a few changes in emphasis - and little else. As the results of a policy review which has taken more than a year to complete, yesterday's statement is thin, disappointing and an anti-climax. Mr Tebbit, among others had led us to expect something more radical and constructive.

The basic framework of the Fair Trading Act is being left intact. Ministers are retaining their discretionary powers over references to the Monopolies Commission - and over what action they take when the commission eventually produces its rulings. The threshold above which mergers qualify for investigation is being raised from £15m of assets in the target company to £30m. The DTI calculates that this will cut the number of qualifying mergers each year from around 200 to around 150.

As far as the criteria for Monopolies Commission references are concerned, Mr Tebbit's precise words are: "I regard mergers policy as an important part of the Government's general policy of promoting competition within the economy in the interests of the customer and of efficiency and hence of growth and jobs. Accordingly, my policy has been and will continue to be to make references primarily on competition grounds."

That is all - and it is not much for would-be bidders to chew on. Mr Tebbit says he expects, and wants, companies to apply to the OFT for unofficial pre-bid guidance more often than they do now (this already happens in three out of four cases). Privately Mr Tebbit and his ministers are saying that Sotheby-style references made in answer to political lobbying rather than on any apparent competition grounds will not happen again. The commission, it is said, will not be used as a "dustbin" for politically hot potatoes. Amen to that: we must hope that is how things develop.

Since Mr Tebbit has chosen not to spell out precisely, this admirable intention, he can only be judged by events.

When it comes to acting on Monopolies Commission decisions, Mr Tebbit said: "The independent competition authorities in this country have a justifiably high reputation and in reaching my decisions I expect to be guided by their advice in the great majority of cases." Privately, the word is that it will take something exceptional for Mr Tebbit and his men to overturn a ruling. That would be welcome, but if that is what Mr Tebbit means, why didn't he say so loud and clear?

Yesterday's statement falls a long way short of a clear policy.

Sir Alex plays hard to get

The stakes have been stepped up in the poker game between Mr Robert Maxwell and his reluctant opponent across the green baize, Sir Alex Jarrett, of Reed International. Since *The Times* first recorded on June 13 that Mr Maxwell wanted to buy Mirror Group Newspapers, Reed has consistently maintained that it will not be deflected from its chosen course of floating MGN on the stock market. Not one to be put off by a cold shoulder, Mr Maxwell this week put a price on his prize: £80m to £100m in cash. Although opinion is hardening that Mr Maxwell will eventually preside over the *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror*, *Sunday People* and their Scottish counterparts, there was considerable sympathy in the City yesterday with Reed's tactics. On

sheep horse-trading grounds, Sir Alex is right to play hard to get and time is still on his side. He may also feel himself to be under some obligation to stand by Mr Clive Thornton.

Mr Kenneth Morton, Reed's finance director, said last October: "We shall spread the shareholdings (in MGN) as evenly as possible." It can be safely assumed that if Mr Maxwell wins control, Mr Thornton will soon be looking for pastures new, and he will not be alone. Nonetheless, Reed's duty to its shareholders puts a distinct limit on its bargaining power. It is generally agreed that above a certain level - one suggestion was £110m - Reed could not resist without facing investor hostility.

The odds, at this stage, are still on the flotation taking place. But there will be some sharp shocks along the way. Mr Maxwell will make sure of that. S G Warburg, Reed's merchant bank, is already said to be pencilling in £80m as the floor price for the stock market sale. If it sticks to that, it can expect some tough anti-fighting as Mr Maxwell tries to drive the price down. He can always threaten to walk away and use his 10 per cent stake in Fleet Holdings, the *Daily Express* group, to mount a full-scale bid there.

A question of solvency

The July 19 solvency deadline facing the 1,500 underwriting members of the PCW syndicates will not be extended. Lloyd's chairman, Mr Peter Miller, yesterday wrote to the steering committee of names, which had requested one month's extension, explaining that Lloyd's overriding duty was to ensure that members traded solvently. Given the PCW deficiencies, no further extension would be granted. The original deadline was the end of May.

The steering committee, set up to consider the £38.17m compromise offer made by Miner Holdings and Alexander & Alexander Services, feels it is being unfairly railroaded by Lloyd's. The Miner-A&AS offer would have been extended - it is also due to expire on July 19 - if Lloyd's had done the same.

The committee also raises a conflict of interest issue concerning Mr Miller, which he robustly rejects. The Lloyd's chairman is a member of the PCW syndicates and has himself opted to accept the Miner-A&AS offer. He is also a member of the Committee of Lloyd's which refused the request for an extension.

Mr Miller insists that the two matters are entirely separate. In his private capacity, it would be in his interests to have an extension of the solvency deadline, because he too has to make good his deficiencies by July 19. It is his duty to see that all Lloyd's members trade solvently.

Mr Miller believes that, on the present information, the offer is a good one. The steering committee, which has support from 120 names so far with more joining daily, thinks it has a good case for getting a better deal. The committee is advised by Mr Robert Alexander QC, who also acted for the Sasse names. One question for him is what rights Lloyd's has against names who refuse to meet the solvency deadline. Minet has had indications of acceptances from half the names through the members' agents.

Whatever the upshot, it is going to be messy. Minet and A&AS wanted 100 per cent acceptances. They will accept less, but it is not known on what terms. With a sizable disgruntled minority still liable to take legal action, the practical value of a majority of acceptances is questionable.

BA 'not a monopoly'

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Lord King, chairman of the soon-to-be-privatised British Airways, last night described as ridiculous claims that the airline was a monopoly. Without naming British Caledonian - whose chairman, Sir Adam Thomson, is attempting to take over BA routes and aircraft - Lord King said: "It is a sadness as well as an irony to me that after all the difficulties overcome and efforts made to bring BA back to the top of the

table of world airlines, it appears that our own nationals seem to enjoy nothing better than to denigrate this achievement."

He went on: "We do not owe the Government or the taxpayer one penny piece, it is all owed to the banks." When BA was put on the market there would be nothing to write off and the Government would sell its shares, the proceeds of which would go to the Treasury.

Rush for American-style entertainments

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

A rush to American-style theme parks over the next 18 months looks likely to result in spending of nearly £200m. Fears about over-saturating the market are being discounted by the organisers, who believe that the theme parks will be educationally attractive and their popularity will grow.

A theme park planned at Battersea power station, announced earlier this week, is likely to involve total spending of £40m. There are some hopes of its opening next year, but with planning procedures and many other details still to be tackled, 1987 opening seems a more realistic possibility.

There have been delays in the first phase of the vast Wonderscape project at Corby, Northamptonshire, one-third backed by British Electric Traction. This is now scheduled to open by mid-1987. The first phase involves spending of £138m. By 1995 projected spending would reach £335m.

Sir Nicholas sees change to dual capacity as inevitable

By Philip Robinson

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange Chairman, made clear yesterday that very little of the present system of dealing in stocks and shares would survive the abolition of fixed commissions, probably next year.

The 53-man ruling council is currently torn between an internal rearguard action to preserve the present system of single capacity, and a stringent timetable for rapid and radical change being enforced by the Government.

Disclosing responses from 16 member firms to the exchange's Green Paper on the City's revolution, Sir Nicholas said that over 70 per cent "accepted that substantial change is now inevitable."

He gave the clearest sign yet that no permutation of the present system was a practical proposition, and dual capacity was inevitable for all those firms which survived the changes.

Sir Nicholas said the proposal for a two-tier market - one to deal on a dual capacity basis with the big international stocks

and another for the smaller brokers to deal with second-line stocks - may be a possibility. But it would be no more than a method of easing the market through a transitional period.

"Among Exchange members, probably most regret what appeared to be the inevitable demise of the single capacity trading system," he said. "It is difficult to see a tiered structure working in a practical way, although we might use it for a transition."

The council will now begin work on choosing a suitable electronic dealing system, likely to cost millions, which would afford the best protection for the small investor.

A consensus seems to have emerged for a continuous tape showing last traded prices as part of a system which allowed Stock Exchange officials to monitor share prices and establish who dealt, at what time and at what price, should any complaint be received from investors that the best was not being obtained.

Sir Nicholas said: "The Stock Exchange had two requirements - on to abolish fixed com-

Pound fall hits gilts

Government stocks last night suffered a sharp fall as the pound continued to weaken on the foreign exchanges and shares had a dull day. The FT Index closed 0.6 down at 833.5. The pound was under pressure from a strong dollar and finished 1.75 cents lower at \$1.3180. It was also weaker against other leading currencies and its trade-weighted index fell by 0.3 to 78.3.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1062.4 up 0.1
FT Index: 833.5 down 0.6
FT 100: 78.02 down 0.20
FT All Share: N/A
Barrington: 15,458
Dunelm: 101.3 down 0.3
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (data) 1,133 down 1.28
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,420.57 up 44.73
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 826.38 down 21.36
Amsterdam: 159.4 up 0.9
Sydney: AO Index: 675.5 up 12.1
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 872.5 down 10.7
Brussels: General Index: 142.88 up 0.70
Paris: CAC Index: 172.5 up 1.1
Zurich: SICA General: 298.90 up 1.40

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.3180 down 1.75 cents
DM 2.3650 down 0.0075
DM 3.7350 down 0.0275
FF 11.44 down 0.0975
Yen 317.27 down 3.0
Dollar Index: 135.7 up 0.6
DM 2.8285 up 0.0110
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.3195
Dollar DM 2.8260
ECU 0.59620
SDR 0.766112

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9% - 9 1/4%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 12% - 12 1/4%
3 month DM 5% - 5 1/4%
3 month FF 12% - 12 1/4%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 13.00
Fed funds 11 1/4
Treasury long bond 9 3/4 - 9 1/2%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period June 6 to July 3, 1984 inclusive: 9.488 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$366 pm \$364.80
close \$364.25-364.75 (£275-275.50)
New York (latest): \$364.50
Kruggerand (per coin): \$375-376.50 (£283.50-284.50)
Sovereigns (new): \$86-87 (£65-65.75)
*Excludes VAT

Britain 'should stay out of the EMS'

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

Britain should not become a full member of the European Monetary System, according to the Treasury's select committee of MPs.

The committee, which yesterday published its report on monetary arrangements, concluded that there should be more "active international collaboration" between the major powers, in order to identify misalignments of exchange rates and adopt "appropriate remedial action."

The report points out that the "only existing formal arrangement for such collaboration is which Britain could immediately participate was the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS. But it concluded that the "balance of advantage" lies in remaining a non-member for the time being.

The committee of backbenchers, chaired by Mr Terence Higgins, had taken evidence from a wide variety of witnesses from Britain and overseas, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the governor and deputy governor of the Bank of England. It concluded that "international monetary arrangements since the early 1970s were 'at least a permissive factor' in the economic troubles of the past decade."

The committee argues that it is possible to identify serious currency "misalignments", and itself points to two: sterling's overvaluation in 1980-81 and what it sees as the present overvaluation of the American dollar.

Unsurprisingly, Mr Nigel Lawson did not agree with this. He told the committee he found the possibility of an overvalued pound "something of a metaphysical question."

The committee concluded that the overvaluation of sterling was "an element" in the rise in unemployment in Britain. But it does not apportion blame in detail between the impact of monetary policy and the impact of the build-up of North Sea oil production on the current and capital accounts of the balance of payments.

Bond dealer charged with fraud

By Michael Prest

Mr Peter Buer, formerly in charge of Eurobond trading at the London office of Bear Stearns, has been charged in Geneva in connection with alleged bond dealing frauds. The alleged frauds involved trading bonds at below market prices. The losses were said to have been credited to the banks and the difference pocketed by the dealers.

The charge was brought by a magistrate after complaints by Union Bank of Switzerland and Bear Stearns. The latter claims to have lost \$3.3m (£2.5m).

Union Bank says that the frauds cost it less than \$5m. The head trader at the New York branch of Union Bank, Mr Jurg Remund, committed suicide. A private Geneva bank, Banque Romande, has confirmed that an account there was used for the allegedly fraudulent bond transactions.

News Corp files US court suit

New York (Reuters) - News Corporation yesterday said it had filed suit in a Florida district court against a Florida insurance commissioner, St Regis Corp, and three of its subsidiaries, Dependable Insurance Group Inc of America, Dependable Insurance Co Inc, and Dependable Life Insurance Co.

The suit alleges that a Florida court order requiring News Corporation to cease acquiring further St Regis securities and an attempt by the Florida Department of Insurance to subject News Corporation to local regulation under the Florida Insurance Code are unconstitutional.

News Corporation said it was seeking a declaratory judgment, and preliminary and permanent injunctions against enforcement of the order and the Florida Insurance Code, and legal fees.

On July 2, the Florida Department of Insurance issued an order for News Corporation to stop buying St Regis stock. The department may request divestiture of News Corporation's St Regis stake under certain conditions.

Sealink sell-off: last bids today

The Government's planned privatization of Sealink should move a step nearer today when the remaining private sector bidders put in their offers.

British Rail's adviser, Morgan Grenfell, has set a deadline of three o'clock this afternoon for bids to be submitted; though it could take another few weeks before the sale of the ferry and harbours business is completed.

BR appears to have accepted that none of the bidders is likely to make an unconditional offer. Among those which have stayed in the running are Sea Containers, Trafalgar House, Ellerman Line and the National Freight-Sealink management consortium.

Sealink's trading performance has suffered this year, and negotiations with the bidders have been held up by uncertainty about the future of certain key contracts.

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries plc



PROFIT GROWTH CONTINUES WITH RISE OF 34%

- ★ Turnover up by 8%
- ★ Pre-tax profit rose by 34%
- ★ Earnings per share increased by 44%
- ★ Dividend up 15%

	For the 52 weeks ended 29th April 1984	For the 52 weeks ended 1st May 1983
Turnover	£692.5	£641.8
Operating profit	63.2	52.0
Pre-tax profit	55.2	41.1
Dividend per share	5.37p	4.663p
Earnings per share	13.5p	9.4p

Another successful year

NEWS IN BRIEF

MPs try to keep pretax bank interest

Tory backbench MPs are making a last-ditch attempt to allow non-taxpayers to continue to receive interest on bank deposits before deduction of tax once banks move to the composite rate system. Sir William Clark, Chairman of the Tory backbench finance committee, has tabled two amendments to the Finance Bill which would exclude children and elderly non-taxpayers.

Sir William, who met Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to press the case, said yesterday he hoped the amendments would be discussed at the report stage.

● **UNIGATE**, the milk to transport group, has increased pretax profits for the year to March 31 to £57.1m, up from £43.7m. Turnover increased from £1,662m to £1,766m. The final dividend of 4.75p makes 7.5p for the year, against 6.8p last time. *Times*, page 20

● **LEGAL AND GENERAL**, the insurance group, has appointed Mr Joe Palmer group chief executive. He retains his position as chief general manager of Legal and General Assurance Society.

● **VALOR** has taken a 5 per cent stake in 51 Kansas oil wells. *Times*, page 20

● **FITCH LOVELL** is increasing its final dividend payment by 15 per cent to 6.7p, in line with the total percentage rise for the year to March 28. Pretax profits rose from £14.6m to £16.1m. Earnings per share were 46.84p (16.01p). *Times*, page 20

CENTURY OILS GROUP

Extracts from the Chairman's statements 1983/4

The full year's results were disappointing after encouraging first half year figures. The outcome was a profit of £3.06m before tax compared with £3.04m in 1982/83. A final dividend of 2.5p per share is recommended as a token of our confidence for the future, making 3.5p for the year compared with 3.4p last year.

Outside the U.K. mining and associated sectors, the volume of business has been greater. This has been achieved by increasing our market outlets, through a wider range of products and as a result of an improved performance in existing markets.

Current outlook

The immediate outlook continues to be dominated by the effects of the miners' strike, and the first half results of the current year will be substantially affected.

Apart from this, the measures taken both at home and overseas to develop sales and increase productivity are beginning to produce significant improvements, and it is expected that once normal trading is resumed with our U.K. customers, record levels of trading could be achieved.

Charles H. Mitchell,
Chairman.

1984

CENTURY OILS GROUP PLC, 20, BOX 2, CENTURY STREET, HANLEY, STOKES-ON-TRENT ST1 5HU, TEL. 0782 29621

TO HOLDERS OF
Southern California Edison
Finance Company N.V.12½% CONVERTIBLE SUBORDINATED
DEBENTURES DUE 1997

RE: CHANGE IN CONVERSION PRICE

As a result of a 2-for-1 split of the Common Stock of Southern California Edison Company, the Conversion Price applicable to the 12½% Convertible Subordinated Debentures Due 1997 has been adjusted to reflect an increase in the number of shares of Common Stock into which the Convertible Debentures may be converted. Upon conversion, debentureholders would receive twice the number of shares of Common Stock to which they were entitled prior to the split with each share at half the par value existing prior to the split. Debentureholders thus would receive Common Stock for which the aggregate par value after the split would remain the same as before the split.

Effective July 6, 1984, the adjusted Conversion Price of \$16.1875 per share of Common Stock will permit a debentureholder to receive approximately 61.78 shares of Common Stock for each \$1000 principal amount of Debentures converted.

Please be advised that this notice is intended merely to inform debentureholders of the change in Conversion Price. No action is necessary if a holder of Debentures decides not to convert.

Southern California Edison Company SCE

Michael L. Noel
Vice President and TreasurerRosemead, California
July 6, 1984

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Imps nears peak price on hopes of bumper profits

By Derek Pain and Wayne Lintott

Shares of the Imperial Group brightened a lacklustre stock market yesterday. They advanced 5p to 159p before settling at 158p.

The once ailing brewing and tobacco group is therefore nudging its all-time peak with the latest buying flurry arising from expectations over next week's interim figures.

Most analysts are going for around £92m pretax profits, against £79.1m in the first half last year, but Mr Nyren Scott-Malden, of de Zoete and Bevan, the stockbroker, expects Imps to produce £97m.

But he is less optimistic about second half profits and expects a full year's figure of £275m.

Looking for a less impressive first half of £92m, he expects a better second half and full year profits of £230m is Mr Peter Temple of Hoare Govett. Imps shares crumpled to 51p three years ago as profits

were falls of up to \$6 among the heavyweights. Newspaper shares were active after Mr Robert Maxwell's £80m to £100m bid for Reed International's Mirror Group Newspapers.

Reed gave up 14p of Wednesday's sharp advance to settle at 44½p. Fleet Holdings, in contrast, recovered from the weakness which followed Mr Maxwell's announcement and surged 16p to 186p on the theory that if MGN should escape Mr Maxwell's attention, then he will bid for Fleet. Associated Newspapers and the related Daily Mail and General Trust also progressed.

Royal Bank of Scotland came in for increasing speculative demand and the shares firmed 6p to 220p. One report was that Mr Norman Tebbit's statement on merger policy might clear the way for another agreed bid from Standard & Chartered Bank, particularly as Standard's competitor for Royal Bank's hand two years ago, the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp, is now tied up with the colony's political problems.

At the time the two banks were competing for Royal, a minority report from the Monopolies Commission argued that the bids should go ahead but the majority view opposed the takeover.

The last agreed offer with Standard was 22p and the minority report suggested that Standard should be allowed to try to establish a higher presence in this country where it is domiciled.

The negotiations between Lloyds Bank and Royal over the sale of their jointly owned subsidiary, Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house, reinforces the speculation. Under those negotiations, Lloyds is attempting to buy out Royal's 39 per cent stake in the finance house.

Meanwhile, Lloyds has also agreed to sell 5 per cent of its 21 per cent stake in Royal.

A waiting and eager buyer could well be Standard & Chartered. One banking analyst felt that Lloyds would do a swap. Their stake in Lloyds & Scottish in return for the 5 per cent in Royal that Lloyds has agreed to dispose of.

Lloyds refused to comment yesterday on strong rumours that it had cut its Royal stake

from 21 per cent to 16 per cent as the Government has demanded.

There were some casualties among recent high-flying oil stocks. Bryson slumped 35p to 548p and Inven Energy lost 18p to 380p.

Enterprise Oil rose 2p to 105p as Rio Tinto-Zinc slipped 12p to 562p on the Office of Fair Trading study of its Enterprise tender offer.

The £4m rights issue from Hill Samuel knocked the shares by 14p to 276p while the takeover bid from Casadian Royal for Acquisition Securities added 10p to Acquisition at 53p.

P&O fell 5p to 295p as Sterling Guarantee Trust acquired more shares, lifting its stake to just over 5 per cent.

The Guardian Royal Exchange offer for the 40 per cent of Aquis Securities it does not already own enlivened other

property shares where there is a large insurance presence.

Fears that Greene King and Sons, the East Anglian brewer, may enter the battle for Midsomerham slipped the shares 6p to 164p. Greene King has 7 per cent of Midsomerham which is fiercely resisting a near £1.9m takeover bid from Swindon Leisure, a company run by two Midland publicans.

Burton Group responded to a buy recommendation from a stockbroker with a 2p fall to 260p. Although weekly trading has been volatile profits for the year of £53m (£38.9m) are forecast.

Equity turnover on Wednesday was valued at £251.885m. Bargains were 13,799. Gilt bargains were 3,019. The number of British and Irish shares traded was 168.4 million.

TEMPUS

Unigate juggles its way to recovery

The great Unigate juggling act, which has seen the group rationalize its structure, re-empire its image and at the same time contain the flood of cash out of the business, is at last drawing to an end. Although the performance might not receive a standing ovation from a demanding audience in the City it should at least ensure a round of polite applause.

After two mediocre years, Unigate has bounced back with pretax profits of £57.1m, a 31 per cent increase, which outstripped most expectations. This impressive performance is backed up by a wealth of statistics which all indicate that the group is moving steadily in the right direction.

Cash is now being controlled much more tightly, which has helped to reduce financing charges by 14 per cent to £16.8m. The positive flow also makes a welcome relief from the huge outflows seen in the previous two years.

The tide may be on the turn, but Unigate must now take the process one step further and start to bring down its borrowings. The subtle change in the gearing calculation, now taken as net debt to trading capital rather than to shareholders' funds, brings the ratio down to 28.6 per cent against 29.7 per cent. As a proportion of shareholders' funds the ratio would have been 40.4 per cent.

Net borrowings now stand at £144m, which still seems high. Although the balance sheet is stronger, Unigate will be disappointed that the property valuation did not bring any increase in asset values to add some more weight.

Trading in the group was generally good although the meats division produced a poor performance. Having been turned round into profit in 1982/83 it could do no more than hold its own last year. There is still a lot more work to do here.

The shares closed 3p up on the day at 133p. With rationalization now almost complete there should be room for further growth.

Fitch Lovell

"How To Spend It" is the clue to Fitch Lovell's rating, after the sale of the Key Markets chain in June last year for nearly £45m. Balance sheet cash is now about £30m, or about 45p a share, generating

nearly £3m in interest benefit to the profit and loss column. If interest rates rise, that inflow might increase this year to about £4m, making the judgment on an acquisition's projected return correspondingly more difficult.

The present 2 point premium rating on the sector at 10, on a shareprice of 163p, owes a lot to the market's confidence in Fitch's ability to pick winners. Fitch sounds equally ebullient about its expertise, believing it can find enough cheap buys to generate £3m in profits in a full year.

Scope for growth exists in the portfolio of food manufacturing, wholesaling and distribution interests, witness last year's 13 per cent profit improvement, even after soaring pig prices hit the star meat manufacturing divisions.

Assuming all goes well, Fitch looks set to generate £23m pretax within the next two years or so, making the target p/e a cheap 6.5. And just in case the plans go awry, a 15 per cent rise in the dividend should maintain the value of the equity, deterring opportunistic bidders.

Valor

Valor, best known for its gas cookers and fires is now extending its oil and gas exploration interests in an unusual risk-free deal.

It is investing around £500,000 in a 5 per cent stake in 51 producing oil wells in Kansas. If it does not get its money back within a three-year period, Lloyds Bank will repay the money or whatever shortfall exists. If it makes more than its investment it keeps it.

The deal was arranged through a Texas bank - thought to be Texas American Bankshares of Fort Worth - which appraised the wells and agreed to back Valor.

Valor's chairman, Mr Michael Montague, wanted the additional security of a British clearing bank guarantee and received it from Lloyds, which based its assessment on the credit rating of the Texas bank.

Its other interests include an 11 per cent stake in Lennox Oil Company, a 10 per cent stake in Block 98-18 English Channel via a consortium led by Unigate, and a modest gas exploration interest in Ohio. At 116p, Valor shares yield 5.1 per cent, representing an intriguing speculation on oil prices.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES	
July 5 (day's range)	July 6 (close)
New York	1.5250-1.5260
London	1.5250-1.5260
Amsterdam	1.5250-1.5260
Frankfurt	1.5250-1.5260
Paris	1.5250-1.5260
Brussels	1.5250-1.5260
Geneva	1.5250-1.5260
Basel	1.5250-1.5260
Madrid	1.5250-1.5260
Barcelona	1.5250-1.5260
Valencia	1.5250-1.5260
Seville	1.5250-1.5260
Bilbao	1.5250-1.5260
Zaragoza	1.5250-1.5260
Palma	1.5250-1.5260
Granada	1.5250-1.5260
Malaga	1.5250-1.5260
Cadiz	1.5250-1.5260
San Sebastian	1.5250-1.5260
Burgos	1.5250-1.5260
Vitoria	1.5250-1.5260
Pamplona	1.5250-1.5260
León	1.5250-1.5260
Valladolid	1.5250-1.5260
Burgos	1.5250-1.5260
Salamanca	1.5250-1.5260
Ávila	1.5250-1.5260
Segovia	1.5250-1.5260
León	1.5250-1.5260
Valladolid	1.5250-1.5260
Burgos	1.5250-1.5260
Salamanca	1.5250-1.5260
Ávila	1.5250-1.5260
Segovia	1.5250-1.5260

EURO-DEPOSITS		DOLLAR SPOT RATES
(%) call, 12-18 months, 24 months, 36 months, 48 months, 60 months, 72 months, 84 months, 96 months, 108 months, 120 months, 132 months, 144 months, 156 months, 168 months, 180 months, 192 months, 204 months, 216 months, 228 months, 240 months, 252 months, 264 months, 276 months, 288 months, 300 months, 312 months, 324 months, 336 months, 348 months, 360 months, 372 months, 384 months, 396 months, 408 months, 420 months, 432 months, 444 months, 456 months, 468 months, 480 months, 492 months, 504 months, 516 months, 528 months, 540 months, 552 months, 564 months, 576 months, 588 months, 600 months, 612 months, 624 months, 636 months, 648 months, 660 months, 672 months, 684 months, 696 months, 708 months, 720 months, 732 months, 744 months, 756 months, 768 months, 780 months, 792 months, 804 months, 816 months, 828 months, 840 months, 852 months, 864 months, 876 months, 888 months, 900 months, 912 months, 924 months, 936 months, 948 months, 960 months, 972 months, 984 months, 996 months, 1008 months, 1020 months, 1032 months, 1044 months, 1056 months, 1068 months, 1080 months, 1092 months, 1104 months, 1116 months, 1128 months, 1140 months, 1152 months, 1164 months, 1176 months, 1188 months, 1200 months, 1212 months, 1224 months, 1236 months, 1248 months, 1260 months, 1272 months, 1284 months, 1296 months, 1308 months, 1320 months, 1332 months, 1344 months, 1356 months, 1368 months, 1380 months, 1392 months, 1404 months, 1416 months, 1428 months, 1440 months, 1452 months, 1464 months, 1476 months, 1488 months, 1500 months, 1512 months, 1524 months, 1536 months, 1548 months, 1560 months, 1572 months, 1584 months, 1596 months, 1608 months, 1620 months, 1632 months, 1644 months, 1656 months, 1668 months, 1680 months, 1692 months, 1704 months, 1716 months, 1728 months, 1740 months, 1752 months, 1764 months, 1776 months, 1788 months, 1800 months, 1812 months, 1824 months, 1836 months, 1848 months, 1860 months, 1872 months, 1884 months, 1896 months, 1908 months, 1920 months, 1932 months, 1944 months, 1956 months, 1968 months, 1980 months, 1992 months, 2004 months, 2016 months, 2028 months, 2040 months, 2052 months, 2064 months, 2076 months, 2088 months, 2100 months, 2112 months, 2124 months, 2136 months, 2148 months, 2160 months, 2172 months, 2184 months, 2196 months, 2208 months, 2220 months, 2232 months, 2244 months, 2256 months, 2268 months, 2280 months, 2292 months, 2304 months, 2316 months, 2328 months, 2340 months, 2352 months, 2364 months, 2376 months, 2388 months, 2400 months, 2412 months, 2424 months, 2436 months, 2448 months, 2460 months, 2472 months, 2484 months, 2496 months, 2508 months, 2520 months, 2532 months, 2544 months, 2556 months, 2568 months, 2580 months, 2592 months, 2604 months, 2616 months, 2628 months, 2640 months, 2652 months, 2664 months, 2676 months, 2688 months, 2700 months, 2712 months, 2724 months, 2736 months, 2748 months, 2760 months, 2772 months, 2784 months, 2796 months, 2808 months, 2820 months, 2832 months, 2844 months, 2856 months, 2868 months, 2880 months, 2892 months, 2904 months, 2916 months, 2928 months, 2940 months, 2952 months, 2964 months, 2976 months, 2988 months, 3000 months, 3012 months, 3024 months, 3036 months, 3048 months, 3060 months, 3072 months, 3084 months, 3096 months, 3108 months, 3120 months, 3132 months, 3144 months, 3156 months, 3168 months, 3180 months, 3192 months, 3204 months, 3216 months, 3228 months, 3240 months, 3252 months, 3264 months, 3276 months, 3288 months, 3300 months, 3312 months, 3324 months, 3336 months, 3348 months, 3360 months, 3372 months, 3384 months, 3396 months, 3408 months, 3420 months, 3432 months, 3444 months, 3456 months, 3468 months, 3480 months, 3492 months, 3504 months, 3516 months, 3528 months, 3540 months, 3552 months, 3564 months, 3576 months, 3588 months, 3600 months, 3612 months, 3624 months, 3636 months, 3648 months, 3660 months, 3672 months, 3684 months, 3696 months, 3708 months, 3720 months, 3732 months, 3744 months, 3756 months, 3768 months, 3780 months, 3792 months, 3804 months, 3816 months, 3828 months, 3840 months, 3852 months, 3864 months, 3876 months, 3888 months, 3900 months, 3912 months, 3924 months, 3936 months, 3948 months, 3960 months, 3972 months, 3984 months, 3996 months, 4008 months, 4020 months, 4032 months, 4044 months, 4056 months, 4068 months, 4080 months, 4092 months, 4104 months, 4116 months, 4128 months, 4140 months, 4152 months, 4164 months, 4176 months, 4188 months, 4200 months, 4212 months, 4224 months, 4236 months, 4248 months, 4260 months, 4272 months, 4284 months, 4296 months, 4308 months, 4320 months, 4332 months, 4344 months, 4356 months, 4368 months, 4380 months, 4392 months, 4404 months, 4416 months, 4428 months, 4440 months, 4452 months, 4464 months, 4476 months, 4488 months, 4500 months, 4512 months, 4524 months, 4536 months, 4548 months, 4560 months, 4572 months, 4584 months, 4596 months, 4608 months, 4620 months, 4632 months, 4644 months, 4656 months, 4668 months, 4680 months, 4692 months, 4704 months, 4716 months, 4728 months, 4740 months, 4752 months, 4764 months, 4776 months, 4788 months, 4800 months, 4812 months, 4824 months, 4836 months, 4848 months, 4860 months, 4872 months, 4884 months, 4896 months, 4908 months, 4920 months, 4932 months, 4944 months, 4956 months, 4968 months, 4980 months, 4992 months, 5004 months, 5016 months, 5028 months, 5040 months, 5052 months, 5064 months, 5076 months, 5088 months, 5100 months, 5112 months, 5124 months, 5136 months, 5148 months, 5160 months, 5172 months, 5184 months, 5196 months, 5208 months, 5220 months, 5232 months, 5244 months, 5256 months, 5268 months, 5280 months, 5292 months, 5304 months, 5316 months, 5328 months, 5340 months, 5352 months, 5364 months, 5376 months, 5388 months, 5400 months, 5412 months, 5424 months, 5436 months, 5448 months, 5460 months, 5472 months, 5484 months, 5496 months, 5508 months, 5520 months, 5532 months, 5544 months, 5556 months, 5568 months, 5580 months, 5592 months, 5604 months, 5616 months, 5628 months, 5640 months, 5652 months, 5664 months, 5676 months, 5688 months, 5700 months, 5712 months, 5724 months, 5736 months, 5748 months, 5760 months, 5772 months, 5784 months, 5796 months, 5808 months, 5820 months, 5832 months, 5844 months, 5856 months, 5868 months, 5880 months, 5892 months, 5904 months, 5916 months, 5928 months, 5940 months, 5952 months, 5964 months, 5976 months, 5988 months, 6000 months, 6012 months, 6024 months, 6036 months, 6048 months, 6060 months, 6072 months, 6084 months, 6096 months, 6108 months, 6120 months, 6132 months, 6144 months, 6156 months, 6168 months, 6180 months, 6192 months, 6204 months, 6216 months, 6228 months, 6240 months, 6252 months, 6264 months, 6276 months, 6288 months, 6300 months, 6312 months, 6324 months, 6336 months, 6348 months, 6360 months, 6372 months, 6384 months, 6396 months, 6408 months, 6420 months, 6432 months, 6444 months, 6456 months, 6468 months, 6480 months, 6492 months, 6504 months, 6516 months, 6528 months, 6540 months, 6552 months, 6564 months, 6576 months, 6588 months, 6600 months, 6612 months, 6624 months, 6636 months, 6648 months, 6660 months, 6672 months, 6684 months, 6696 months, 6708 months, 6720 months, 6732 months, 6744 months, 6756 months, 6768 months, 6780 months, 6792 months, 6804 months, 6816 months, 6828 months, 6840 months, 6852 months, 6864 months, 6876 months, 6888 months, 6900 months, 6912 months, 6924 months, 6936 months, 6948 months, 6960 months, 6972 months, 6984 months, 6996 months, 7008 months, 7020 months, 7032 months, 7044 months, 7056 months, 7068 months, 7080 months, 7092 months, 7104 months, 7116 months, 7128 months, 7140 months, 7152 months, 7164 months, 7176 months, 7188 months, 7200 months, 7212 months, 7224 months, 7236 months, 7248 months, 7260 months, 7272 months, 7284 months, 7296 months, 7308 months, 7320 months, 7332 months, 7344 months, 7356 months, 7368 months, 7380 months, 7392 months, 7404 months, 7416 months, 7428 months, 7440 months, 7452 months, 7464 months, 7476 months, 7488 months, 7500 months, 7512 months, 7524 months, 7536 months, 7548 months, 7560 months, 7572 months, 7584 months, 7596 months, 7608 months, 7620 months, 7632 months, 7644 months, 7656 months, 7668 months, 7680 months, 7692 months, 7704 months, 7716 months, 7728 months, 7740 months, 7752 months, 7764 months, 7776 months, 7788 months, 7800 months, 7812 months, 7824 months, 7836 months, 7848 months, 7860 months, 7872 months, 7884 months, 7896 months, 7908 months, 7920 months, 7932 months, 7944 months, 7956 months, 7968 months, 7980 months, 7992 months, 8004 months, 8016 months, 8028 months, 8040 months, 8052 months, 8064 months, 8076 months, 8088 months, 8100 months, 8112 months, 8124 months, 8136 months, 8148 months, 8160 months, 8172 months, 8184 months, 8196 months, 8208 months, 8220 months, 8232 months, 8244 months, 8256 months, 8268 months, 8280 months, 8292 months, 8304 months, 8316 months, 8328 months, 8340 months, 8352 months, 8364 months, 8376 months, 8388 months, 8400 months, 8412 months, 8424 months, 8436 months, 8448 months, 8460 months, 8472 months, 8484 months, 8496 months, 8508 months, 8520 months, 8532 months, 8544 months, 8556 months, 8568 months, 8580 months, 8592 months, 8604 months, 8616 months, 8628 months, 8640 months, 8652 months, 8664 months, 8676 months, 8688 months, 8700 months, 8712 months, 8724 months, 8736 months, 8748 months, 8760 months, 8772 months, 8784 months, 8796 months, 8808 months, 8820 months, 8832 months, 8844 months, 8856 months, 8868 months, 8880 months, 8892 months, 8904 months, 8916 months, 8928 months, 8940 months, 8952 months, 8964 months, 8976 months, 8988 months, 9000 months, 9012 months, 9024 months, 9036 months, 9048 months, 9060 months, 9072 months, 9084 months, 9096 months, 9108 months, 9120 months, 9132 months, 9144 months, 9156 months, 9168 months, 9180 months, 9192 months, 9204 months, 9216 months, 9228 months, 9240 months, 9252 months, 9264 months, 9276 months, 9288 months, 9300 months, 9312 months, 9324 months, 9336 months, 9348 months, 9360 months, 9372 months, 9384 months, 9396 months, 9408 months, 9420 months, 9432 months, 9444 months, 9456 months, 9468 months, 9480 months, 9492 months, 9504 months, 9516 months, 9528 months, 9540 months, 9552 months, 9564 months, 9576 months, 9588 months, 9600 months, 9612 months, 9624 months, 9636 months, 9648 months, 9660 months, 9672 months, 9684 months, 9696 months, 9708 months, 9720 months, 9732 months, 9744 months, 9756 months, 9768 months, 9780 months, 9792 months, 9804 months, 9816 months, 9828 months, 9840 months, 9852 months, 9864 months, 9876 months, 9888 months, 9900 months, 9912 months, 9924 months, 9936 months, 9948 months, 9960 months, 9972 months, 9984 months, 9996 months, 10008 months, 10020 months, 10032 months, 10044 months, 10056 months, 10068 months, 10080 months, 10092 months, 10104 months, 10116 months, 10128 months, 10140 months, 10152 months, 10164 months, 10176 months, 10188 months, 10200 months, 10212 months, 10224 months, 10236 months, 10248 months, 10260 months, 10272 months, 10284 months, 10296 months, 10308 months, 10320 months, 10332 months, 10344 months, 10356 months, 10368 months, 10380 months, 10392 months, 10404 months, 10416 months, 10428 months, 10440 months, 10452 months, 10464 months, 10476 months, 10488 months, 10500 months, 10512 months, 10524 months, 10536 months, 10548 months, 10560 months, 10572 months, 10584 months, 10596 months, 10608 months, 10620 months, 10632 months, 10644 months, 10656 months, 10668 months, 10680 months, 10692 months, 10704 months, 10716 months, 10728 months, 10740 months, 10752 months, 10764 months, 10776 months, 10788 months, 10800 months, 10812 months, 10824 months, 10836 months, 10848 months, 10860 months, 10872 months, 10884 months, 10896 months, 10908 months, 10920 months, 10932 months, 10944 months, 10956 months, 10968 months, 10980 months, 10992 months, 11004 months, 11016 months, 11028 months, 11040 months, 11052 months, 11064 months, 11076 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months, 15348 months, 15360 months, 15372 months, 15384 months, 15396 months, 15408 months, 15420 months, 15432 months, 15444 months, 15456 months, 15468 months, 15480 months, 15492 months, 15504 months, 15516 months, 15528 months, 15540 months, 15552 months, 15564 months, 15576 months, 15588 months, 15600 months, 15612 months, 15624 months, 15636 months, 15648 months, 15660 months, 15672 months, 15684 months, 15696 months, 15708 months, 15720 months, 15732 months, 15744 months, 15756 months, 15768 months, 15780 months, 15792 months, 15804 months, 15816 months, 15828 months, 15840 months, 15852 months, 15864 months, 15876 months, 15888 months, 15900 months, 15912 months, 15924 months, 15936 months, 15948 months, 15960 months, 15972 months, 15984 months, 15996 months, 16008 months, 16020 months, 16032 months, 16044 months, 16056 months, 16068 months, 16080 months, 16092 months, 16104 months, 16116 months, 16128 months, 16140 months, 16152 months, 16164 months, 16176 months, 16188 months, 16200 months, 16212 months, 16224 months, 16236 months, 16248 months, 16260 months, 16272 months, 16284 months, 16296 months, 16308 months, 16320 months, 16332 months, 16344 months, 16356 months, 16368 months, 16380 months, 16392 months, 16404 months, 16416 months, 16428 months, 16440 months, 16452 months, 16464 months, 16476 months, 16488 months, 16500 months, 16512 months, 16524 months, 16536 months, 16548 months, 16560 months, 16572 months, 16584 months, 16596 months, 16608 months, 16620 months, 16632 months, 16644 months, 16656 months, 16668 months, 16680 months, 16692 months, 16704 months, 16716 months, 16728 months, 16740 months, 16752 months, 16764 months, 16776 months, 16788 months, 16800 months, 16812 months, 16824 months, 16836 months, 16848 months, 16860 months, 16872 months, 16884 months, 16896 months, 16908 months, 16920 months, 16932 months, 16944 months, 16956 months, 16968 months, 16980 months, 16992 months, 17004 months, 17016 months, 17028 months, 17040 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months, 19608 months, 19620 months, 19632 months, 19644 months, 19656 months, 19668 months, 19680 months, 19692 months, 19704 months, 19716 months, 19728 months, 19740 months, 19752 months, 19764 months, 19776 months, 19788 months, 19800 months, 19812 months, 19824 months, 19836 months, 19848 months, 19860 months, 19872 months, 19884 months, 19896 months, 1		

APPOINTMENTS

County Bank and Bisgood
Bishop Mr J C L Puxley,
chairman and joint managing
director of Bisgood, Mr E M
Winterford, joint managing
director of Bisgood, and Mr D
R Forrester, director of Bis-
good, have been appointed to
the board of County Bank. Mr
J Plawski, general manager,
related banking services divi-
sion, National Westminster
bank, Mr C N Williams, chief
executive County Bank, and Mr
J Cohen, deputy chief execu-
tive, County Bank, have joined
the board of Bisgood.

Lloyds Bank: Mr O C Darby
has become a member of the
Birmingham and West Mid-
lands regional board, Mr P B I
Clark, who recently retired as
general manager (overseas divi-
sion), has been appointed a
regional director of the Eastern
County regional board from
August 1.

Reed Stenhouse & Partners:
Mr J C R Bowman has been
made chairman and Mr P B I
Bridges and Mrs P A Perkins
made joint chief executives of
Reed Stenhouse & Partners.

Olympic Holidays: Mr Mar-
tyn Ferguson Jones, group sales
manager at British Airways, will
take over as managing director
of Olympic Holidays and
Travel World Olympic, on July
23.

TI Group: Mr Michael
Williams will join the board on
September 1 as technical direc-
tor.

Renold: Mr Peter Bibby has
joined the board.

The Wolverhampton &
Dudley Breweries: Mr D G F
Thompson has been named
production director. Mr P A
Robertshaw has been named
production director in suc-
cession to Mr B C Clabb, who is
retiring from the company at
the end of August.

David Young, Energy Correspondent, examines the background to next week's talks in Vienna

Opec set to keep a steady hand on oil prices

As the oil ministers of the
Organization of Petroleum
Exporting Countries (Opec)
meet in Vienna next week to
discuss prices and output
quotas, their counterparts in the
non-Opec nations have already
set the scene.

Opec will always remain the
most important forum for
discussions on world prices and
the Opec price will always be
the one that others follow.

But Opec itself now admits
more importantly, the output
quotas set by Britain, Norway
and Mexico, have to be taken
into account.

For that reason Opec would
like to see Britain and Norway
follow Mexico in agreeing some
form of loose arrangement
whereby quotas would be set in
conjunction with the Opec
Monitoring Committee, which
meets on Monday before the
full ministerial meeting on
Tuesday and which policies
members' output.

While accepting that Britain
and Norway's ability to increase
output from the North Sea has
played a significant role in
stabilising world supplies during
the present Gulf conflict, Opec
still feels that Britain, by
increasing output to an average
of 2.5 million barrels a day, has
broken an agreement to keep
output at near 2.1 million
barrels a day.

The Department of Energy's
position is that no such

agreement ever existed, and in
any case could never have been
given by a British Government
which has never claimed any
right to interfere with individ-
ual oil company production
targets.

Therefore, any formal agree-
ment between Britain and Opec
is out of the question and the
Norwegian Government has
taken the same view.

Mexico, however, has always
coordinated its policies with
those of Opec and its decision
earlier this week to maintain its
export price for light crude at
the Opec market price of 20
dollars is being interpreted by
the oil traders as an indication
that the present Opec agreement
on output and prices will be
little changed by the end of next
week's meeting.

Mexico, which last year
produced 146 million tonnes of
oil - more than any Opec
country except Saudi Arabia -
exports to 25 countries. The
United States takes half of the
exports, Japan 12.1 per cent,
Spain 10.2 per cent and Britain
6.3 per cent.

Its decision to keep prices
stable and to make little change
in output schedules will make it
easier for Opec to maintain the
price and quota agreement it
made in London in March last
year for another six months, an
agreement which many in the
oil industry thought would hold
for only a few weeks when it
was first announced.

WORLD OIL SUPPLY AND DEMAND 1984 (million barrels)					
	1/Q	2/Q	3/Q	4/Q	Average
Consumption					
OECD	35,750	32,500	32,500	36,000	34,188
Others	11,000	11,000	11,500	11,500	11,250
Total	46,750	43,500	44,000	47,500	45,438
Supply					
Non-OPEC	23,500	23,500	24,000	24,000	23,750
Eastern bloc (net exports)	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750
Process gain	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
OPEC liquefied Gas	1,900	900	900	1,000	950
OPEC crude	17,000	17,000	18,000	20,750	18,238
Total	44,750	44,000	44,500	48,500	45,438
Stock Exchange/other	-2,000	1,500	500	1,000	250
Total supply	42,750	45,500	45,000	49,500	44,788
Inventory end of period	3,957	4,073	4,119	4,210	
Days supply	90	93	87	N/A	

Source: Laurence Frost

However, there are those in
Opec anxious for a change and
there are those who feel that
they have already been given
the nod to increase production
to bring in more foreign
earnings.

The demands for a price
increase will again be led by
Iran supported, ironically, by
Iraq. Both want a price increase
for the same reason: to support
their war efforts against each

other. Both will also seek quota
increases, but it seems certain
that they will find little support
from the other Opec members.

The positions on prices have
already been taken. Venezuela,
who with Algeria, Indonesia
and the United Arab Emirates,
forms the Monitoring Com-
mittee, has made it clear that it
sees no scope for a price
increase until 1986, and only
then if world oil demand has

increased. The Venezuelan view
is that only when demand has
strengthened should a price rise
be considered and then it
should be kept to two or three
percentage points above the
world inflation rate.

Such a policy, say Venezuela,
would help investment plan-
ning, not to mention the signing
of long-term contracts. Vene-
zuela is also convinced that,
after 1987, Britain, Norway and
Mexico will have no scope for
production increases and Opec
will gradually be able to step up
output from the present 17.5
million barrels a day to 22.5
million barrels a day by 1990.

Ecuador supports the Vene-
zuelan stand, but will also argue
next week that if the western
industrialized world has stable
oil prices it should reciprocate
by lowering interest rates on
outstanding loans to developing
countries.

The oil minister of Ecuador,
Señor Gustavo Galindo said:
"Our strongest position would
be to keep oil prices at their
present levels but on the
grounds that developed coun-
tries lower interest rates."

The demands for quota
increases will come from Nige-
ria, which under its new regime
is anxious to improve its foreign
earnings, but at the same time is
firmly committed to the unity
of Opec.

Nigeria's adherence to the

quotas imposed on it by a
previous regime has surprised
many oil industry watchers, but
has also impressed Saudi
Arabia, the most influential
Opec member. By sticking
firmly to the Opec rules, Nigeria
now feels that it has earned the
right to be considered a special
case. The likelihood is that any
quota system will be used to
reward Nigeria for its loyalty at
a time when it has been facing
severe financial pressures.

Opec as a whole deserves
considerable credit for keeping
to its present agreement for 18
months. The strains of it have
been enormous; destocking in
most of the industrialized
world, a general fall in demand
and a bitter war between two
members threatened the supply
routes from the heart of its
largest producing area.

In fact the Iraq-Iran conflict
and the threat of Gulf tankers
has had little real effect. The
non-Opec countries have been
able to offer to meet any
shortfalls in supplies. Saudi has
its floating stockpiles outside
the Gulf and Iran and Iraq have
both been able to keep output
up to near normal levels.

However, the leading oil
companies are agreed that if
Opec awards itself a collective
pat on the back for maintaining
a united front in the face of such
difficulties, it will be thoroughly
deserved.

Dissidents at Euro Ferries to fight on

By Jeremy Warner

Representatives of dissident
shareholders in European Fer-
ries have persuaded the com-
pany's merchant bank adviser,
S. G. Warburg, to meet them
today to discuss their griev-
ances.

Two small shareholders,
accountant Mr Serge Louie and
Mr Stephen Patten, issued a
press release on Monday saying
they had resolved to continue
the fight against the company's
plans to curb cheap fares for
shareholders, despite the sub-
stantial alterations that have
already been made to the
proposals.

Mr Anthony Elliott, an S. G.
Warburg director, said ahead of
the meeting last night, that
although the bank was willing to
discuss the scheme, there was
no question of further modifi-
cations.

"We have made as many
changes in the scheme as we
possibly can," he said. The
suggestion that the preference
shares should be made freely
convertible back into ordinary
shares "would make a nonsense
of the whole thing."

The company has already
agreed to abolish the discretion
directors previously had to
terminate discounts for share-
holders on the group's Towns-
end-Thoresen ferries after 15
years.

Shareholders meet again on
July 16 to vote on the revised
proposals.

BREMNER p.l.c.

(General Warehousemen)

Turnover Up and Dividend Increased

Extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman,
Mr J. T. Bremner, for the year ended 31st January, 1984.

I am glad to report that the improvement in the general
business climate gave consumers a degree of confidence
which resulted in an increase in turnover (£3,806,588 against
£3,801,482 in 1983) even in our particular trading area which
remains difficult. Due to the continuing pressure on our mar-
gins and the annual increases in overhead costs, the trading
profit was only marginally higher, whilst profit after tax was
£139,953 against £121,913. The recommended final dividend
of 2.0p per share together with the interim dividend of 0.05p
already paid is an effective increase of 18.64% over the pre-
vious year's total dividend.

Recovery from the recession is somewhat slower and more
sporadic in our area of trading compared to that experienced
in other parts of the country. As a result, the demand for
more 'volatile' than in the past. The 'volatile' demand
emerges in the short term. It is our intention to take the fullest
advantage of those favourable factors as they present themselves.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from:
The Secretary, Bremner p.l.c.,
44 Glasgow Street, Glasgow G1 1UH.

BREMNER p.l.c. GLASGOW



PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1984

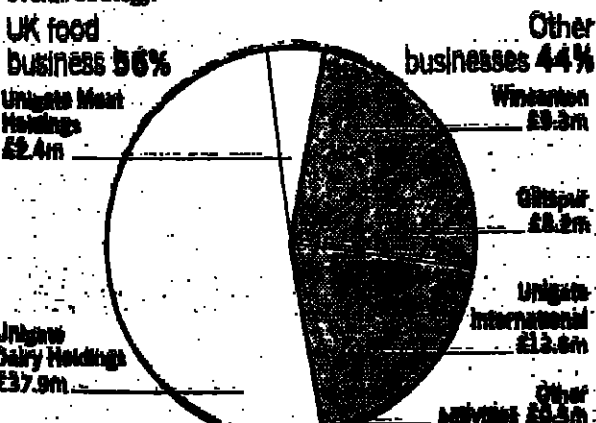
Getting into Shape

As Unigate's long term strategy begins to bite, results reach record levels.

Our record '83/84 pre-tax profits signal the beginning of a new chapter for the Unigate Group. We have now achieved two major objectives - the revitalisation of our UK-based food operations, and the rebuilding of the Group structure as a base for future expansion. Despite substantial costs, we produced a modest cash inflow of £2.9m during the year after a £20.9m outflow in the previous year. Unigate's balance sheet is now in good shape and we look forward to strong cash generation in the future. The Group has also made progress towards achieving other parts of its strategy.

Operating profits from activities outside the UK food business now account for 44% of the £71.9m Group total.

This figure should be compared with that of less than 25% five years ago and it reflects the continued success of the overall strategy.



Unigate is now concentrating its activities in three main business areas - the manufacture and distribution of food, transport and distribution services, and exhibition and specialist engineering services. We have continued to reduce our dependence on declining markets and in particular on the market for UK milk products. At the same time we are improving our position in growth markets. We also intend to attain performances at least equal to our most effective competitors in each of our markets. Through a programme of developing our existing business structure, we seek a balance between quality of earnings and growth. Return on trading capital again increased from last year's figure of 14.4% to 17.4%. Operating profit as a percentage of sales rose during the year from 3.7% to 4.1%.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS	'83/'84	'82/'83
Turnover	£m 1,766.2	£m 1,622.1
Operating profit	71.9	61.1
Profit before tax and extraordinary charges	57.1	43.7
Extraordinary charges	26.7	13.7
Earnings per share	p 18.5	p 14.1
Dividends per share	p 7.5	p 6.8

The above figures are extracted from the full accounts (on which the auditors have given an unqualified report) which will be contained in the Annual Report to be posted to Shareholders on 9 August 1984.

Divisional Review

Unigate achieved a dramatic increase in profits during 1983, from £3.3 to £24.1 million. This has been one of the principal reasons for the 44% of Group operating profits produced by activities outside the Group's UK food business. Unigate's steady progress on all fronts has also helped to boost their results. The growth in Unigate International's profits would have been greater but for the US Government intervention in the American cheese market.

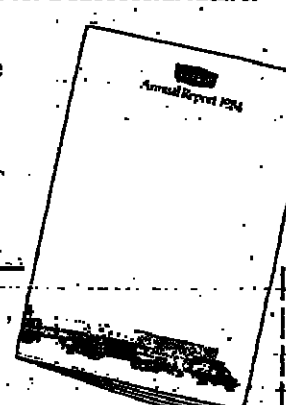
Unigate Dairy Holdings' share of Group profits has now fallen to 53% despite a 16% year-on-year increase in the division's own results - a fine performance against a background of well-known problems which have dogged the division's markets for milk products. Major capital expenditure and streamlining of existing plant have begun to yield the expected returns. Unigate Meat Holdings, however, was unable to capitalise on last year's turnaround. We have undertaken a close review of all companies in the division which were not performing at optimum levels. As a result, three companies, including Henry Teffer, have been disposed of, holding out the prospect of a more satisfactory profit level for the division.

Prospects

Unigate has undergone a radical restructuring of its business, and is now in a strong position to benefit from an increase in consumer spending on food and services, stimulated by an improvement in the economic climate at home and overseas.

Unigate is getting into shape for a successful future.

JOHN CLEMENT
Chairman & Chief Executive



If you would like a copy of the 1984 Annual Report to be published on 9 August, please write to:
Company Secretary, Unigate PLC,
Unigate House, Western Avenue,
London W3 0SH.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____



Compagnie Française des Pétroles

Compagnie Française des Pétroles 1983
Annual Shareholders' Meeting of June 23, 1984

The Ordinary General Shareholders' Meeting of Compagnie Française des Pétroles, held on June 23, 1984 with Mr René Gruber as President, in the Chair, approved the accounts for 1983. All the resolutions were adopted.

In his address, the President stated that the first half of 1984 should confirm the recovery that began in the second half of 1983. With regard to the refining and marketing sector, he emphasized the need to follow through the price and supply policies in those countries where prices are controlled. It was particularly necessary that the application of administrative formulas should not be distorted by considerations foreign to the realities of the market. In the production sector, an extremely substantial investment effort will be made over the coming years, particularly as regards the development of the fields in the North Sea.

Mr Gruber also stated that the accounts of his headquarters reflected for 1983 a recovery, this was the last General Meeting he would be presiding over. A new President of Compagnie Française des Pétroles will be nominated between now and October, the first in the Company's history.

The brochure 'Compagnie Française des Pétroles and the Total Group in 1983' is available in English and French from Service Diffusion, 8 Rue Michel Ange, 75008 Paris Cedex 16, France.

Highlights of 1983

- Exploration:** The exploration thrust has been redirected towards those areas and countries which combine a high probability of discovering hydrocarbons and contractual and fiscal arrangements conducive to the maximization of exploration expenditure.
- Development:** The investments set aside for the development of discoveries and the maintenance of production have remained at a high level. These mainly involved production in the North Sea, the Middle East and Indonesia, together with new production from Angola, Cameroon and France. Expanding production value from the new fields in Argentina and Angola will largely depend on contractual and fiscal arrangements. As for China, it was recently decided to engage in preliminary development.
- Unigat:** Total continued its exploration and production operations in France, Australia, North America and Nigeria. The Group was able to cover 15% of French consumption. This Group represents 7.5 million tons of oil equivalent.
- Coal:** Total was involved in offering deliveries, in the production of nearly 4 million tons of coal in South Africa and the United States. In the latter country, the partnership in which the Group owns 50% achieved results of the order of 250 million francs, with the result that production of some twelve million tons may be envisaged towards the end of the present decade.
- Research and Development:** In 1983, two new 'exploration' and 'refining and production' facilities were inaugurated in France. In the way the Total Group is emphasizing the importance it attaches to the possession of high-performing scientific and technological tools to accompany and back up its role as operator and energy supplier in the competitive international arena.
- Results and Dividends:** CFP (parent company) net earnings in 1983 amounted to 454 million francs compared to 341 million francs in 1982 and net earnings attributable to 437 million francs (compared to 459 million francs). The total year per share came to 54 francs (dividend plus tax credit), 1983 of 52 francs (dividend only).
- Appointment of a Director:** The General Meeting appointed Mr Pierre Guisard a Director of the Company for a six-year term.

Some figures on the Group:

	1982	1983
Production	44	46
Oil (million tons)	5.4	6.7
Gas (billion m³)		
Results (unconsolidated, in billions of francs)		
Sales	131	138.5
Costs	95	96
Abroad	78	8.5
Cash Flow	-1.0	0.22
Earnings	6.2	6.8
Net Investments		

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Beazer lifts bid for Leech to £21.7m

The battle for control of William Leech, the Newcastle-based housebuilder, entered the home straight yesterday when C. H. Beazer (Holdings) raised its bid from £18.5m to £21.75m and formally announced that this was a final offer. The terms are 145p cash for each Leech share, or five Beazer shares for every 12 Leech.

The share-exchange deal is worth 143.3p a share. Leech shareholders will be allowed to keep the 1.5p interim dividend due to be paid on July 23. This bid will be open until July 20 unless extended.

● **HENRY WIGFALL & SON:** In his annual statement to shareholders, Mr Gordon Hazzard, chairman, reports that the group's recovery is still on course and despite the weather in January and the early effect of the miners' strike, the second-half performance was good enough to eliminate the first-half loss, as he had foreshadowed in his interim statement. "There is no doubt that we are making good progress - slower than we, or you, would wish, but progress nevertheless. Every step in the recovery plan is being considered with meticulous care and all change is being introduced with painstaking thoroughness so that we can be sure that our plans are soundly based and that the improvement made will continue."

● **BLACK AND EDGINGTON HOLDINGS:** Mr Michael Edginton, the chairman, reports in his annual statement that the rationalization exercise, now nearing completion, places Black in a sound financial position, with sufficient resources to fund its planned expansion in the travel and holiday sectors, which the board believes have good medium and long-term prospects.

● **ROBERT MOSS:** The board proposes to raise about £2.55m (net of expenses) by a rights issue of 4.23 million ordinary shares at 63p each on a one-for-five basis. This issue has been underwritten by Orchard Holdings, a company controlled by Moss's chairman, Mr Murray McLean, has undertaken to subscribe for 400,000 shares, about 65 per cent of its entitlement under the issue.

● **T. R. ENERGY:** T. R. Energy is to make a rights issue of £7.84m 8 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock, 1997-2001, to raise about £7.5m, after expenses, subject to shareholders' approval. The basis for allotment is £1 of the stock for every three shares held, the stock being convertible in 1987 to 1997 at 50p a share. This issue has been underwritten by Kleinwort Benson, brokers to the issue, as de Zoete & Bevan.

● **TDS CIRCUITS OVERSUBSCRIBED:** The application list for the offer for sale of 1.24 million ordinary shares at 380p per share closed yesterday. The basis of allocation will be announced as soon as possible.

London Prudential Investment Trust PLC

Highlights of the year
(ended 30th April 1984)

Gross Revenue	£745,726 + 20.1%
Earnings (net) per share	5.78p + 5.6%
Net asset value per share	243.5p + 17%
Total assets	£14,907,725

Investment Review Summary

UK further implementation of switching portfolio into smaller companies.

USA switch out of major high technology companies into broad selection of smaller, lower technology, growth situations.

JAPAN portfolio actively managed, producing above average rise of 105.1%.

Investment Objectives

Investment in smaller companies with growth prospects in the principal investment areas of the world, with the objective of achieving a balance of income and capital growth.

MANAGERS

KLEINWORT BENSON

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts (including a ten page Investment Managers' Review) are available from the Secretary, 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB.

ATTC A member of the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

WALL STREET

July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1
NYSE	2,845.12	2,845.12	2,845.12	2,845.12
AMEX	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NASDAQ	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NYSE	2,845.12	2,845.12	2,845.12	2,845.12
AMEX	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NASDAQ	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NYSE	2,845.12	2,845.12	2,845.12	2,845.12
AMEX	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NASDAQ	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NYSE	2,845.12	2,845.12	2,845.12	2,845.12
AMEX	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NASDAQ	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00

Law Report July 6 1984 Court of Appeal

Effect of Lords' judgment on conspiracy

Regina v Tonner and Others
Regina v Evans (Ronald)
Before Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Kenneth Jones and Mr Justice Waterhouse
[Judgment delivered June 28]

If a conspiracy to defraud involved the commission of any substantive offence, it could only be charged under section 1(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1977. Accordingly, these appellants were all charged with conspiracy to defraud contrary to section 1(1) of the 1977 Act.

The appellants here submitted that there was no room for doubt as to whether common law conspiracies to defraud or statutory conspiracies should have been charged; all the conduct complained of must have been within the contemplation of Parliament when it enacted the provision of section 38(1) of the Finance Act 1972 and section 1(1) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979.

The maximum penalties for acting contrary to those two sections, and for conspiring to do so, were preserved by section 5 of the 1977 Act, were almost identical with the maximum penalties which could be imposed for the common law conspiracies. Not surprisingly, having regard to the scale of the frauds here, the Crown had taken factor very much in mind when laying the charges at common law.

It was argued, however, that the clear terms of sections 1(1) and 5 could not be expanded into an interpretation that they could not sensibly bear merely because the conduct complained of was on a uniquely serious scale. It was maintained, further, that if the unlawful conduct agreed upon was a mixture of that which amounted to a substantive offence and that which did not, the conspiracy was caught by section 1(1).

For the Crown it was submitted that common law conspiracy to defraud was preserved by section 5 to meet actual or potential lacunae in substantive law (see *Ayres*), and that there were lacunae in circumstances not considered in *Ayres* (1) where the agreement was to perform a combination of conduct which constituted an offence or offences within the meaning of section 1 and that which did not; (2) where what was agreed upon was so diverse and complicated as to warrant the levelling against a defendant or defendants of one all-embracing charge which a jury could more easily understand than were it to be so faced with a series of conspiracies in different counts arising out of the same circumstances.

If the Crown's argument was right it followed that the decision in *Ayres* left a considerable area of uncertainty as to what constituted a lacuna, and consequently substantially failed to achieve its purpose, which must have been to remove the doubts which had existed about the effects of sections 1(1) and 5. Regrettably, though it might be that serious criminal conduct might appear to be inadequately punished consequent upon the decision in *Ayres*, their Lordships did not accept that, in the circumstances, a lacuna of the nature propounded on behalf of the Crown.

In their Lordships' view Lord Bridge's conclusion in *Ayres* effectively and precisely drew the line between what could and could not be regarded as a conspiracy to defraud at common law. It was now

beyond doubt that if a conspiracy involved the commission of any substantive offence, it could only be charged under section 1(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1977. Accordingly, these appellants were all charged with conspiracy to defraud contrary to section 1(1) of the 1977 Act.

There was another ground of appeal affecting Evans's appeal. He was first arraigned at Southwark Crown Court on April 11, 1983, on June 22 the jury were discharged from giving a verdict on October 19 a retrial commenced.

Between June and October the Criminal Justice Act 1982 came into force, which removed from an accused the entitlement to make an unsworn statement, but which did not apply to a trial which began before the commencement of the section.

The trial judge rejected a submission that Evans's trial had begun when he was arraigned in April. Accordingly, Evans was denied the right, which he claimed, to make an unsworn statement from the dock.

References had been made to a number of statutes and cases. What their Lordships deemed to be the true position was expressed in *Morris v The Queen* (1980) 13 Supreme Court of Canada 407 that a trial did not begin upon the prisoner's arraignment, but when the jury was sworn and took the prisoner in charge to try the issues.

Evans did not give evidence at his trial. He knew before he started what his position was, and that he had failed to see what hardship could have come to him, and that ground of appeal failed.

Summing up in equipped to cheat offences

Regina v Corbett

In future, any summing up in relation to an offence of going equipped to cheat contrary to section 3 of the Theft Act 1968 should be based on the way the matter was stated in *R v Douglas* (1978) 1 WLR 372.

Lord Justice Parker so stated, sitting with Mr Justice Dyson and Sir John Thompson on July 2, when the Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Stephen Corbett against his conviction on March 29, 1983 in Bristol Crown Court (Judge Connell) of going equipped to cheat, on which he was fined £150.

HIS LORDSHIP said that in *Douglas* Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane analysed the offence at p375. In the present case, taking all the elements of the summing-up together, their Lordships were satisfied that they dealt with all the items comprising the offence as set out by Lord Justice Lane.

It would, however, have been more satisfactory if the judge had acceded to the request of prosecuting counsel at the end of the summing-up, and had given a direction strictly in accordance with *Douglas*.

Counsel's duty in cases over children

In re W and Another (Minors)

The Court of Appeal, after consultation with the President of the Family Division, directed on July 3 that in appeals from orders transferring a child from one parent to another or from a local authority to a parent, the maximum acceptable period before the hearing of the appeal was 28 days, and that the Registrar of Civil Appeals would be instructing his listing staff to that effect.

LORD JUSTICE CUMMING-BRUCE, sitting with Lord Justice Dillon, added that, counsel's convenience would not be an acceptable reason for delaying the hearing of an appeal involving the transfer of a child.

If counsel accepted a retainer to appear in such a case, counsel must accept it plain that the instructing solicitor that they would follow the case to appeal, if one, in spite of other commitments. If counsel could not give that assurance counsel's clerk should tell the solicitor, so that the client would know that in the event of an appeal it would not be conducted by the counsel who had conducted the case at trial.

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	1984 High	1984 Low	Company	Price	Chg	1984 High	1984 Low	Company	Price	Chg	1984 High	1984 Low
1	Atlantic Comp	10.00	9.50	1	Atlantic Comp	10.00	9.50	1	Atlantic Comp	10.00	9.50	1	Atlantic Comp
2	Cambridge Elec	10.00	9.50	2	Cambridge Elec	10.00	9.50	2	Cambridge Elec	10.00	9.50	2	Cambridge Elec
3	Cray Elec	10.00	9.50	3	Cray Elec	10.00	9.50	3	Cray Elec	10.00	9.50	3	Cray Elec
4	Crescent	10.00	9.50	4	Crescent	10.00	9.50	4	Crescent	10.00	9.50	4	Crescent
5	Johns Road	10.00	9.50	5	Johns Road	10.00	9.50	5	Johns Road	10.00	9.50	5	Johns Road
6	Murphy	10.00	9.50	6	Murphy	10.00	9.50	6	Murphy	10.00	9.50	6	Murphy
7	Prescott	10.00	9.50	7	Prescott	10.00	9.50	7	Prescott	10.00	9.50	7	Prescott
8	Rover	10.00	9.50	8	Rover	10.00	9.50	8	Rover	10.00	9.50	8	Rover
9	Resource Tech	10.00	9.50	9	Resource Tech	10.00	9.50	9	Resource Tech	10.00	9.50	9	Resource Tech
10	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	10	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	10	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	10	W.D. & H.O. Wills
11	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	11	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	11	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	11	W.D. & H.O. Wills
12	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	12	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	12	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	12	W.D. & H.O. Wills
13	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	13	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	13	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	13	W.D. & H.O. Wills
14	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	14	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	14	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	14	W.D. & H.O. Wills
15	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	15	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	15	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	15	W.D. & H.O. Wills
16	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	16	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	16	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	16	W.D. & H.O. Wills
17	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	17	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	17	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	17	W.D. & H.O. Wills
18	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	18	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	18	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	18	W.D. & H.O. Wills
19	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	19	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	19	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	19	W.D. & H.O. Wills
20	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	20	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	20	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	20	W.D. & H.O. Wills
21	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	21	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	21	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	21	W.D. & H.O. Wills
22	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	22	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	22	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	22	W.D. & H.O. Wills
23	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	23	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	23	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	23	W.D. & H.O. Wills
24	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	24	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	24	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	24	W.D. & H.O. Wills
25	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	25	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	25	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	25	W.D. & H.O. Wills
26	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	26	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	26	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	26	W.D. & H.O. Wills
27	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	27	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	27	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	27	W.D. & H.O. Wills
28	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	28	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	28	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	28	W.D. & H.O. Wills
29	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	29	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	29	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	29	W.D. & H.O. Wills
30	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	30	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	30	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	30	W.D. & H.O. Wills
31	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	31	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	31	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	31	W.D. & H.O. Wills
32	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	32	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	32	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	32	W.D. & H.O. Wills
33	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	33	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	33	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	33	W.D. & H.O. Wills
34	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	34	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	34	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	34	W.D. & H.O. Wills
35	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	35	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	35	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	35	W.D. & H.O. Wills
36	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	36	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	36	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	36	W.D. & H.O. Wills
37	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	37	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	37	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	37	W.D. & H.O. Wills
38	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	38	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	38	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	38	W.D. & H.O. Wills
39	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	39	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	39	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	39	W.D. & H.O. Wills
40	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	40	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	40	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	40	W.D. & H.O. Wills

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in Saturday's Newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

SHORTS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

MEDIUMS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

LONGS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

BREWERIES

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

ELECTRICALS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

DRAPERY AND STORES

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

CINEMAS AND TV

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

FOODS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

FINANCE AND LAND

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

E-K

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

L-R

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

S-Z

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

HOTELS AND CATERERS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

SHOES AND LEATHER

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

TEXTILES

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

TOBACCOS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

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OVERSEAS TRADERS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

OIL

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

INSURANCE

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

LEISURE

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

MINING

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg 1984 High Low Stock Price Chg

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares surge ahead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began July 2. Dealings End, July 13. Contango Day, July 16. Settlement Day, July 23

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	Price	Chg	1984 High	1984 Low	Company	Price	Chg
10.00	9.50	Atlantic Comp	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	Atlantic Comp	10.00	9.50
10.00	9.50	Cambridge Elec	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	Cambridge Elec	10.00	9.50
10.00	9.50	Cray Elec	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	Cray Elec	10.00	9.50
10.00	9.50	Crescent	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	Crescent	10.00	9.50
10.00	9.50	Johns Road	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	Johns Road	10.00	9.50
10.00	9.50	Murphy	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	Murphy	10.00	9.50
10.00	9.50	Prescott	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	Prescott	10.00	9.50
10.00	9.50	Rover	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	Rover	10.00	9.50
10.00	9.50	Resource Tech	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	Resource Tech	10.00	9.50
10.00	9.50	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	W.D. & H.O. Wills	10.00	9.50

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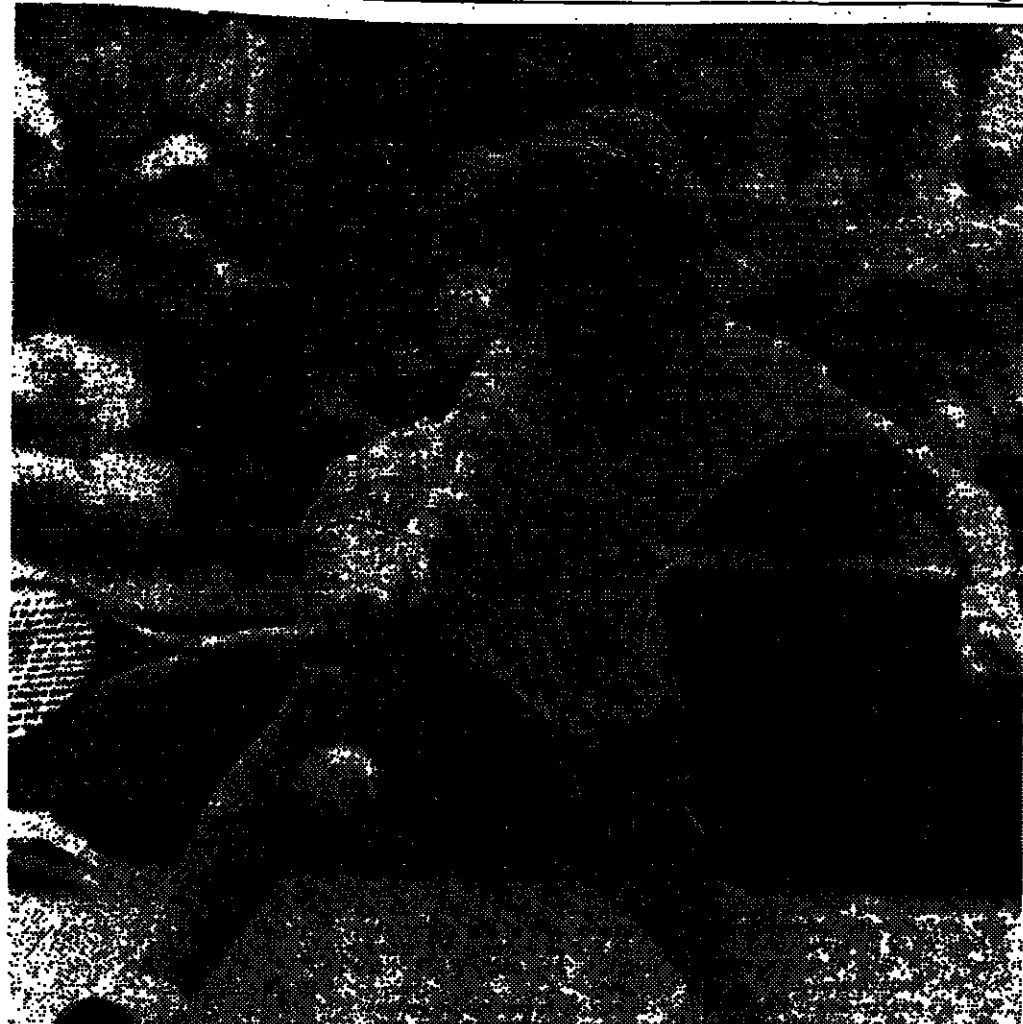
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TENNIS: American sharpens up for fourth meeting with champion in Wimbledon final



Double fault: Jordan stoops but fails to conquer as...

Mrs Lloyd must bridge a gap that has widened

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Martina Navratilova will play Chris Lloyd in the women's singles final at Wimbledon. That has happened three times before and Miss Navratilova has always won. Mrs Lloyd did win their semi-finals in 1976 and 1980 and she also beat Miss Navratilova in the 1982 final of the other grand slam championship played on grass, the Australian.

Since then, Miss Navratilova has beaten Mrs Lloyd in 11 consecutive matches and in the last six has not even lost a set. The gap between them has widened. Mrs Lloyd has played remarkably well this week but, nevertheless, no longer looks as good a player as Miss Navratilova.

The men's semi-finals, to be played today, will be between a stern, somewhat tetchy man. Except for Jimmy Connors, who is prone to sporadic outbursts of warmth and humour, they tend to suggest that playing a game for a living - and a very good living at that - is anything but fun.

John McEnroe, who has won two of his four consecutive Wimbledon finals, plays Pat Cash, aged 19, the third Australian in four years - and Mark Edmondson - to confound the seedings by reaching the semi-finals.

They have not met before and McEnroe, therefore, could have early difficulty in taking the temperature of the water. But there is no reason to suppose that Cash is in the same class: not yet, anyway.

Connors v Ivan Lendl is a less predictable pairing. Connors is playing his thirteenth Wimbledon and has

been champion twice and runner-up three times. Lendl's record on grass in general, and at Wimbledon in particular, is comparatively modest. But he reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon last year, was runner-up for the Australian championship, did his confidence a lot of good by winning the French title last month, and has been too good for Connors in their last two matches. The score was 6-3, 6-4 at Madison Square Garden and 6-0, 6-0 at Forest Hills. If you happen to be a gambler, do not risk much.

The women's semi-finals were admirable in expertise but deficient in dramatic content. Mrs Lloyd beat Hana Mandlikova 6-1, 6-2 in 45 minutes and Miss Navratilova beat Kathy Jordan 6-3, 6-4 in 67 minutes - almost a replica of their final in the Australian championships last December.

Miss Mandlikova, kidding herself, had made a psychological error by indicating that she expected to beat Mrs Lloyd. There was nothing in their head-to-head record to justify this assumption: and Mrs Lloyd's response was predictable.

able. Call it, if you like, the quintessence of ruthlessness. Miss Mandlikova, aged 22, reached five grand slam singles finals from 1980 to 1982 and won the Australian and French championships. Since then, her presumably ascendant star has waned. She is a lovely woman, has an engaging air of panache and is also an uncommonly graceful and gifted player - at her best an artistic cast from the same mould as Evonne Cawley and Maria Bueno.

The trouble with Miss Mandlikova is that she has become replete of moods. When she feels good she can take a set, maybe two, from anybody. At other times her game can look fragile and flashy. Yesterday was one of the other times. Often she made even the easy shots look difficult.

Give Mrs Lloyd 10 out of 10 for hustling Miss Mandlikova back into the chorus line. Mrs Lloyd looked like a professional playing an amateur. She played rallies while Miss Mandlikova merely played shots. To explain that, Mrs Lloyd was always thinking a move ahead - playing her shots in sequences that simply had to provoke an



... Mandlikova rises only to fall (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

error or provide an opening for a winner. With the final in mind, the impressive features of Mrs Lloyd's game - more evident yesterday than they have been in the last year or so - were her quick anticipation and reactions, her hard hitting, her resilient counter-punching, her racket handling when she was on the run, her commanding service games, and her confidence in hitting down the line (had she learnt something from Carina Karlsson a round earlier?).

Miss Mandlikova went off court first. She could not be bothered waiting for Mrs Lloyd, nor could she be bothered about the mandatory press conference (that could cost her more than \$350). She did not want to talk about a match that had done her reputation nothing but harm.

Miss Jordan has matured as a grass-court singles player: the last eight at Wimbledon last year, the final in Australia and now a semi-final at Wimbledon. She has a frying-pan grip: a technique that does not lean heavily on the harsh principles of orthodoxy. But the important thing is where she puts the ball, not how she does it.

Her racket arm bears not only a wristlet but also an elbow bandage, which means that the arm looks rather like a legged cold-water pipe. But Miss Jordan is smart, aggressive, and reacts fast to every emergency. She did all the right things and she did them well. But all that did her no good. She was sharing a court with one of the greatest players in the game's history. Miss Navratilova absorbed all the punches. Miss Jordan had to throw at her and always seemed to have something in reserve.

The match was punctuated by roars of applause from court one, where a doubles match was in progress. That was frustrating. Reporters tend to be locked in a private world of typewriters and telephones at a time when distant ovals tell us that something spectacular is happening in the doubles. Then well-meaning friends with smiling faces pop in to tell us we have missed the best match of the day. This is an example of God's Law and to answer the reader who seeks a definition, God's Law insists that no matter how hard you try, you can never win.

In the unprecedented message, Mrs Lloyd writes: "I would like to extend a sincere congratulation to you and your associates for such an outstanding effort this year."

Women's final has a woman in charge

By Rupert Morris

Mrs Clark began her career as an umpire in 1974, has been in charge of singles semi-finals at both Wimbledon and the US Open, and is currently the tour director for the Women's Tennis Association.

The umpires received an unexpected pat on the back yesterday however from the Women's Tennis Association, whose president, Chris Lloyd, wrote to Lt-Col Peter Webster, chief of the Wimbledon Umpires.

In the unprecedented message, Mrs Lloyd writes: "I would like to extend a sincere congratulation to you and your associates for such an outstanding effort this year."



Final meeting: Fleming and McEnroe, who tomorrow play Cash and McNamee in the men's doubles final

Improvisation doubles Cash's value

By Simon O'Hagan

Wimbledon can feel grateful to Pat Cash for breaking up - dare it be said - the monotony of familiar names enjoying predictable progress. To his place in the men's singles semi-finals he has added success in doubles, a form of the game to which his mobility and powers of improvisation are especially well suited.

What gives him added appeal is that he actually makes mistakes. This is where Paul McNamee, his doubles partner, comes in handy. For McNamee, a former Wimbledon doubles champion with Peter McNamara, has the experience and cool head to complement Cash's flair and compensate for his occasional lapse in concentration.

Yesterday they took another Australian pair, the unseeded Mike Fancutt and Peter Doohan, in the semi-finals. Doohan and Fancutt played a tidy game but for much of the time lacked the ability to finish off their opponents when they had them at their mercy. Cash, obligingly hit the occasional service return into the bottom of the net, but he also has the ability to leap out of nowhere to conclude a point with a thrilling volley.

Cash and McNamee had earlier come through their quarter-final match against the second seeds, Mark Edmondson and Sherwood Stewart, 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 7-5, 13-11. From two sets all overnight, they produced a final set that was almost a match in itself: 24 games of muscular tennis in which - until Stewart capitulated at 11-12 - the services of all four men were impregnable.

It was a popular win. Cash and McNamee were athletic, vigorous and, above all, did not wear peaked caps. These do not seem to go down particularly well at Wimbledon (shades of Hewitt and McMillan, perhaps) and Sherwood and Edmondson might be advised to go bareheaded next time.

Yesterday's results at Wimbledon

Women's singles

Holders: M Navratilova (US)
Semi-final:
M LLOYD (GB) vs M MANDLIKOVA (CZ), 6-1, 6-2;
M NAVRATILOVA (US) vs K JORDAN (US), 6-3, 6-4.

Men's doubles

Holders: P Fleming and J P McEnroe (US)
Quarter-final:
P CASH and P MCNAMEE (AUS) vs M R EDMONDSON (AUS) and S E STEWART (US), 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 7-5, 13-11.

Women's doubles

Holders: M Navratilova and P H Shriver (US)
The following results were received too late for inclusion in yesterday's early editions.
QUARTER-FINAL:
A GORRIBOVA and A TAMESVARIL (IND) vs C CURRIEN (USA) and A J BROWN (GB), 7-6, 6-0.

Mixed doubles

Holders: J M Lloyd (GB) and W M Turnbull (AUS)
Second round:
A GORRIBOVA and Miss S A WALSH (US) vs E S STEWART (US) and Miss E M GORRIBOVA (AUS), 7-6, 7-6.

Women's doubles

Holders: M Navratilova and P H Shriver (US)
The following results were received too late for inclusion in yesterday's early editions.
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Mixed doubles

Holders: J M Lloyd (GB) and W M Turnbull (AUS)
Second round:
A GORRIBOVA and Miss S A WALSH (US) vs E S STEWART (US) and Miss E M GORRIBOVA (AUS), 7-6, 7-6.

EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker stakes Olympic claim

By Jenny MacArthur

Michael Whitaker, whose place in the Olympic showjumping team is expected to be confirmed today, continued his inspired season with Overton's Amanda, his Olympic horse, when he won the £1,075 first prize in the Radio Rentals Stakes at the British Showjumping Association National Championship at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh yesterday. Whitaker produced the only clear round in the timed five-horse jump-off and held off the five challengers to the holder of the title, Jeff McLean, with Hello Le Val, who had a fence down and finished second. Jean Germany on Mandingo took third place.

Tony Newbery, from Devon, finished fourth on Ryan's Mill and now looks likely to fill one of the five places in the Olympic squad. The selectors' meeting to choose the final five took place immediately after the class.

Earlier, Rodney Ward's Coldstream, ridden by Derek Rickerts, narrowly defeated Sea Pearl, ridden by Malcolm Pyrah, in the Next and Next Top Score Championship. Coldstream, who has won more than £100,000 during his 11 years at the top of showjumping, only competes in the smaller international classes now out of deference to his 17 years.

But yesterday he showed he had lost nothing of his agility when he jumped effortlessly round the course to beat horses half his age.

Pyrah was one and a half seconds slower on Mrs Conway's Sea Pearl. David Broome was third on Royale. In the last showjumping class, David Taylor, on the small hack Flying High, found himself standing reserve to Stella Harries riding Gainsborough, whom he had sold just two months earlier. The seven-year-old Gainsborough, a perfect hack type, was produced as a novice by Taylor at the start of the season but was sold to Cathryn Cooper, the owner of last year's reserve champion, Brown Buzzard, on the eve of Windsor Horse Show.

A new award for outstanding achievement in the field of equine welfare was announced yesterday by Dorian Williams, the patron of the Horsemasters' and Protection Association (HAPPA).

The award, to be presented annually by HAPPA, will be judged from nominations by the public. Roy Trigg, the producer of hunters, exemplified the kind of achievement they are looking for when, earlier this year, he rescued two horses from a horse-bus which had caught fire on the Fosse Way, returning from the Royal.

RESULTS: Radio Rentals Stakes for the British Showjumping Association National Championship. 1. Overton's Amanda (M Whitaker) 0 in 50.78 sec; 2. Hello Le Val (J McLean) 0 in 51.48 sec; 3. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 52.18 sec; 4. Ryan's Mill (T Newbery) 1 in 53.18 sec; 5. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 6. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 7. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 8. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 9. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 10. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 11. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 12. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 13. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 14. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 15. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 16. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 17. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 18. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 19. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 20. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 21. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 22. Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 1 in 53.18 sec; 23. 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RACING: HERN'S FOUR-YEAR-OLD HAS CLASS TO OVERCOME PENALTY AT SANDOWN

Bedtime to defy hefty burden

By Mandarín
(Michael Phillips)

Following that encouraging performance at Kempton Park 10 days ago Bedtime is mapped to win the Royal Hongkong Jockey Club Trophy at Sandown Park this afternoon.

Normally it would go against the grain to side with a horse with a 5lb penalty, carrying 10st 2lb in a race of this nature. In this instance, however, I believe the risk is worth taking because Dick Hern, Bedtime's trainer, would not be asking his four-year-old such a hard question unless he was utterly convinced that he was capable of answering it.

That race at Kempton was Bedtime's first of the season and victory was achieved by giving lumps of weight and a decisive beating to My Tony and Basil Boy, two of the most successful handicappers seen in action in the first half of this season.

Afterwards a crack at a pattern race looked the only course open to Bedtime's connections. The fact that they opted for today's race speaks for itself.

Geoff Lewis, the trainer of My Tony, is unquestionably right to let his horse chance his luck again, especially as he has won over today's course and distance, already this season.

Furthermore, My Tony is a habitual front-runner and Sandown seems to suit this type of horse. But I still feel that My Tony is liable to be overwhelmed in the straight by Bedtime, who has the class and, more important, the size and strength to carry his welter weight.

Sikorsky, who landed one of the season's biggest gambles when he won the Beesborough Stakes at Royal Ascot, and the improving three-year-old Bare Essence, who won a fourth at York last month, along with My Tony and perhaps Chicago Bid at his best, will help to ensure that my nap starts at rewarding odds.

Viceroy Lad, another who has been penalized for doing well recently, is my selection for the GRE Handicap. Five failures in the spring meant that the handicapper relented and dropped Viceroy Lad in the weights. No sooner had he done



Celestial Dancer, and Edward Hide fancied to win Sandown's Jardine Handicap

so than Viceroy Lad struck last week, winning twice in the space of three days at Wolverhampton and Salisbury. The second of those two victories, in the Noel Cannon Memorial Trophy, was particularly prize-worthy. All that suggests that with only 7st 8lb to carry, Viceroy Lad could prove too much of a handful for the Britannia Stakes runner-up, Courting Season, whose form has been enhanced recently by Torwar winning again at Yarmouth.

Bassenthwaite, (2.0), the six-length winner of the Berkshire Stakes at Newbury last month, the Cork and Orrery Stakes runner-up, Celestial Dancer (4.10), and Rhinest (4.40) look other likely winners at Sandown, especially Rhinest, who ran Sharazart to half a length at Newbury last month. Since then

his conqueror has strolled home a Yarmouth.

Haydock's two-day meeting could begin with the young Lambourn, trainer Michael Blanshard winning the first two races with Stock Hill Lass (2.15) and Andromeda Lad (2.45). Joy Ride, who won the Daresbury Handicap Stakes last year, now looks poised for a second success, especially as he is opposed by only two opponents who have done nothing of note lately.

If Tony Ives manages to win the Shop Window Fillies Stakes at Beverley on the promising Silba, his helter skelter dash from Haydock, where he should have already won the East Lancashire Stakes on Lobbit, will prove worthwhile.

Kelansah, my selection for the Grandway Handicap, is still at the right end of the handicap in


view of his record. Finally, Rapid Lad, a great favourite with Beverley racegoers, understandably as he has won twice six times already, now looks poised to record yet another victory in the Grandways Check-out Stakes, even under the staidler of loss.

Course specialists


SANDOWN
TRAINER: W. H. 20 wins from 65 runners, 28.8%; G. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; R. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; J. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; K. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; L. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; M. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; N. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; O. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; P. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; Q. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; R. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; S. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; T. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; U. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; V. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; W. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; X. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; Y. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; Z. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AA. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AB. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AC. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AD. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AE. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AF. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AG. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AH. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AI. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AJ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AK. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AL. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AM. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AN. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AO. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AP. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AQ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AR. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AS. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AT. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AU. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AV. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AW. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AX. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AY. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; AZ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BA. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BB. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BC. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BD. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BE. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BF. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BG. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BH. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BI. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BJ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BK. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BL. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BM. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BN. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BO. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BP. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; BQ. 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H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; CW. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; CX. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; CY. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; CZ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DA. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DB. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DC. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DD. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DE. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DF. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DG. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DH. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DI. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DJ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DK. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DL. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DM. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DN. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DO. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DP. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DQ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DR. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DS. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DT. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DU. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DV. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DW. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DX. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DY. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; DZ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; EA. 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H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MM. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MN. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MO. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MP. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MQ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MR. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MS. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MT. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MU. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MV. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MW. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MX. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MY. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; MZ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NA. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NB. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NC. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; ND. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NE. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NF. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NG. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NH. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NI. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NJ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NK. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NL. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NM. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NN. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NO. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NP. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NQ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NR. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NS. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NT. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NU. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NV. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NW. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NX. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NY. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; NZ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OA. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OB. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OC. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OD. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OE. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OF. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OG. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OH. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OI. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OJ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OK. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OL. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OM. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; ON. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OO. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OP. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OQ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OR. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OS. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OT. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OU. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OV. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OW. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OX. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OY. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; OZ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PA. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PB. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PC. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PD. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PE. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PF. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PG. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PH. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PI. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PJ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PK. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PL. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PM. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PN. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PO. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PP. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PQ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PR. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PS. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PT. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PU. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PV. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PW. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PX. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PY. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; PZ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QA. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QB. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QC. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QD. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QE. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QF. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QG. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QH. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QI. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QJ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QK. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QL. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QM. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QN. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QO. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QP. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QQ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QR. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QS. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QT. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QU. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QV. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QW. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QX. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QY. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; QZ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RA. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RB. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RC. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RD. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RE. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RF. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RG. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RH. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RI. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RJ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RK. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RL. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RM. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RN. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RO. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RP. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RQ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RR. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RS. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RT. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RU. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RV. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RW. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RX. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RY. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; RZ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SA. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SB. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SC. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SD. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SE. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SF. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SG. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SH. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SI. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SJ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SK. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SL. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SM. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SN. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SO. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SP. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SQ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SR. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SS. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; ST. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SU. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SV. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SW. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SX. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SY. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; SZ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TA. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TB. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TC. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TD. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TE. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TF. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TG. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TH. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TI. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TJ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TK. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TL. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TM. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TN. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TO. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TP. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TQ. H. 20 wins from 122, 21.2%; TR. H. 20 wins from 122

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